

DAILY REPORT

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FUKUDA FAVORS OPEN DISCUSS OF CONSTITUTION'S REVISION

OW110150Y Tokyo KYODO in English 0033 GMT 11 Mar 78 OW

[Text] Tokyo, 11 Mar (KYODO)--Prime Minister Takeo Fukuda suggested Friday that politicians should openly discuss whether or not the post-war constitution shall be revised. He made the suggestion in the House of Councillors budget committee in reply to Liberal-Democrat Kazuo Tamaki who stands for changing the constitution.

Fukuda pointed out the constitution has a provision on amendments. As a matter of fact it would be very difficult to change the constitution, but the Liberal-Democratic Party is allowed to consider a revision of the basic statute, he insisted.

On national defense Shin Kanemaru, director general of the Defense Agency, said the 270,000-man Self-Defense Forces alone could not defend the country. He added the people should have courage to defend their own nation. The questioner demanded that Japan should start negotiations with China for a peace and friendship treaty after getting Chinese commitment that the Senkaku Islands [Tiaoyutai Islets] are Japanese territory. In reply Foreign Minister Sunao Sonoda said the proposed treaty would be a peace treaty and would not cover the territorial problem.

Seeks SDF Deployment in Emergencies

OW131051Y Tokyo KYODO in English 1039 GMT 13 Mar 78 OW

[Text] Tokyo, 13 Mar (KYODO)--Prime Minister Takeo Fukuda said Monday that he had instructed officials concerned to see that legal barriers are removed to enable Japan to deploy Self-Defense Forces in cases of emergency. Fukuda made this known at a session of the House of Councillors budget committee in response to questions by the Liberal-Democratic Party's Eitaro Itoyama.

Supplementing Fukuda's reply, Katsumi Takeoka, chief of the Defense Agency's Secretariat, said Defense Agency officials had been studying the matter since last August at the instruction of Asao Mihara, then Defense Agency director general.

In reply to another question, Keiichi Ito, director of the Defense Agency's Defense Bureau, said the agency would present a report to the Diet on the results of the security consultations between Japan and the United States so long as it does not compromise Japan's national interests. He indicated that such report would be submitted to the Diet some time after May.

Fukuda was also queried as to whether the United States might ask Japan to increase its defense efforts. The prime minister replied that he was convinced that the U.S., well aware of Japanese constitutional restrictions and the sentiments of the people, would not make an undue demand for Japan's sharing of a greater burden of the country's defense.

FUKUDA, ABE: 'NO NEED' TO SEND CABINET MINISTER TO U.S.

OW130557Y Tokyo KYODO in English 0518 GMT 13 Mar 78 OW

[Text] Tokyo, 13 Mar (KYODO)--The government decided Monday to abandon a plan to send a cabinet minister to Washington to ask the U.S. Government to take vigorous steps for stabilization of the dollar's value.

The decision was made when Prime Minister Takeo Fukuda and Chief Cabinet Secretary Ito re-examined the advisability of dispatching a cabinet minister on such a mission. In view of the renewed appreciation of the yen against the dollar last week, voices have been mounting in the government that a cabinet minister go to Washington to implore the U.S. for steps to strengthen the dollar.

At Monday's meeting, however, Fukuda and Abe agreed there was no need to take such a step under present circumstances. Government sources said Fukuda and Abe agreed that the government should first watch what kind of an agreement was reached between U.S. President Jimmy Carter and West German Chancellor Helmut Schmidt for stabilization of the weak dollar. According to reports from Bonn, Schmidt said Sunday he and Carter approved the outline of a joint German-American plan to aid the dollar in a telephone talk and it will probably [be] announced Monday. Also, the U.S. and Japanese Governments are in close touch on the currency problem, the sources said.

Import Measures To Cut Surplus

OW111303Y Tokyo KYODO in English 1247 GMT 11 Mar 78 OW

[Text] Tokyo, 11 Mar (KYODO)--External Economic Affairs Minister Nobuhiko Ushiba said Saturday that the just-adopted emergency import measures would make a big dent in Japan's surplus in trade with the United States. Speaking to reporters after the ad hoc ministerial conference had given the go-ahead to the four-point measures, Ushiba predicted that the nation's trade surplus with the United States would shrink to an annual rate of around 2 billion dollars from now on.

Ushiba called exorbitant the 9.1 billion dollar surplus Japan ran up last year in trade with the United States alone. It is most important for Japan to increase imports from the United States and help take steam out of the uptrend in the yen's exchange value in dollar terms, Ushiba said. Last year, the United States registered a record 26.6 billion dollar deficit in trade with other nations.

BULGARIA'S ZHIVKOV ARRIVES FOR 6-DAY VISIT 13 MARCH

OW130313Y Tokyo KYODO in English 0310 GMT 13 Mar 78 OW

[Text] Tokyo, 13 Mar (KYODO)--Bulgarian President Todor Zhivkov arrived here Monday for a 6-day state visit to Japan. He was accompanied by Foreign Minister Petur Mladenov and Nacho Papazov, chairman of the Committee for Science, Technological Progress and Higher Education. President Zhivkov is scheduled to have talks with Prime Minister Takeo Fukuda on Monday evening and Wednesday morning. The president will also meet the emperor and empress, and visit Nagoya.

Received by Emperor

OW131043Y Tokyo KYODO in English 1041 GMT 13 Mar 78 OW

[Text] Tokyo, 13 Mar (KYODO)--Visiting Bulgarian President Todor Zhivkov was welcomed by the emperor at a reception held Monday afternoon at the guest house in Moto-Akasaka, in Tokyo. Ground Self-Defense Force honor guards saluted the state guest upon his arrival at the palace. After the national anthems of Bulgaria and Japan were played, the emperor introduced Crown Prince Akihito, Prince Hitachi and Prime Minister Takeo Fukuda to the Bulgarian President. President Zhivkov also met other dignitaries, including members of the foreign diplomatic corps and government officials.

After the reception, the Bulgarian head of state rode on a motorcar with the emperor to the Imperial Palace. Pupils of a nearby primary school, waving the national flags of both countries, stood by as the car departed. At the Imperial Palace, the Bulgarian president had a 30-minute chat with Emperor Hirohito and Empress Nagako. On the occasion, the president was awarded the Grand Cordon of the Supreme Order of the Chrysanthemum. In return, the emperor received the Stara Planina Order. It was the second meeting of the emperor and the Bulgarian president. They had met before when the 1970 exposition was held in Japan.

FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL LEAVES FOR PEKING 12 MARCH

OW121055Y Tokyo KYODO in English 1029 GMT 12 Mar 78 OW

[Text] Tokyo, 12 Mar (KYODO)--Takashi Tajima, director of the Foreign Ministry's China division, left Tokyo for Peking Sunday to hold consultations with Japanese Ambassador Shoji Sato on matters related to resumption of negotiations for concluding a Japan-China treaty of peace and friendship. He is expected to stay in Peking for 3 days. The government had decided last week to dispatch Tajima to Peking to explain to Ambassador Sato the government's stand on the treaty issue.

SOVIET ENVOY STRESSES NEED FOR COOPERATION TREATY

OW111247Y Tokyo KYODO in English 1228 GMT 11 Mar 78 OW

[Text] Sendai, 11 Mar (KYODO)--Soviet Ambassador Dmitriy Polyanskiy stressed here Saturday [March 11] the need for a good-neighborhood and cooperation treaty between Japan and the Soviet Union. Addressing a general meeting of the Japan-Soviet Association, the Soviet envoy said the draft of the treaty proposed by the Soviet Union did not conflict with national interests of the two countries. Since relations between Japan and the Soviet Union have remarkably been improved in recent years, he said, now is the time to have the new development of Soviet-Japan relations placed on a solid foundation.

He said he believed that the Japan-Soviet neighborhood and cooperation treaty could form the foundation for that purpose although there would be some parts that Japan could consider unacceptable. To solidify relations between the two countries, he said, the two countries should settle first the points they could accept, not put forth a difference in opinions.

In this sense, the Japan-Soviet neighborhood and cooperation treaty could play an important role, not harming national interests of both countries but developing reciprocal cooperation based on mutual trust, he said. He said he was confident that the Japanese public had understood the draft of the Japan-Soviet neighborhood and cooperation treaty made public through the Soviet news media. The Japanese Government, angered over the sudden disclosure of the treaty draft, an unusual diplomatic action, had chosen to ignore it.

Amity Society Advocates Treaty

OW121047Y Tokyo KYODO in English 1030 GMT 12 Mar 78 OW

[Text] Sendai, Miyagi Pref, 12 Mar (KYODO)--The private Japan-Soviet Society in a general meeting in Sendai Sunday decided to promote the conclusion of a long-pending peace treaty between the two countries. In a declaration 200 attending members pledged to make further efforts to develop friendly relations between the two countries. Among those present was Vitaly Stepanovich Smirnov, who represented the Soviet-Japan Society.

U.S. DEFENSE OFFICIAL'S ROK VISIT TO OBSERVE EXERCISE SCORED

OW120844Y Pyongyang KCNA in English 0825 GMT 12 Mar 78 OW

[Text] Pyongyang, 12 Mar (KCNA)--U.S. Deputy Secretary of Defence Duncan flew into South Korea on the afternoon of March 11 when the frantic joint military manoeuvre of the U.S. forces and the puppet army was on in the areas near the military demarcation line, according to a report.

The United States and the South Korean puppets announced that while in South Korea the warmonger would "inspect" the ongoing "joint South Korea-U.S. military exercise" and discuss problems concerning South Korea's "security" with the puppets.

It is not a negligible fact that the U.S. imperialists launched the military exercise, the "largest" ever since the ceasefire, in South Korea and sent a ranking official of the Defence Department to South Korea to direct and inspect it on the spot and have a war confab with the puppets behind closed doors.

Before and after the start of the "joint military exercise" the U.S. defence secretary and the chief of staff of the U.S. Army in Washington said that the U.S. forces "would be sent to the Korean front" in case of "emergency" and that "the U.S. military strike forces would be promptly hurled into a war" if it breaks out in Korea. And now a warmonger holding the post of U.S. deputy secretary of defence flew into South Korea on an aggressive mission.

All this goes to show what a grave stage the new war provocation manoeuvres of the U.S. imperialists against the Korean people have entered today.

Through Duncan's tour of South Korea the U.S. imperialists intend to examine and perfect their criminal plan of war against the north at the theatre of the provocative military exercise and encourage the moribund puppets to the provocation of war against us.

Duncan's South Korean tour reminds one of the powder-reeking visit to South Korea by the ill-famed warmonger Dulles who checked on the spot the plan of aggression against our people and encouraged the puppets to war against the north, while "inspecting" the 38th parallel in June 1950, 28 years ago.

Facts indicate how hard the U.S. imperialists, oblivious of the lesson of history, are working to unleash a new war of aggression against our people.

They oppose the independent and peaceful reunification of our country and try to freeze the present state of division and, further, realize their aggressive design on the northern half of the republic, using South Korea as a stepping-stone. But this is a delusion.

Our people will not tolerate the criminal acts of the U.S. imperialists in bringing the situation to the brink of war to bar our people's cause of the independent and peaceful reunification of Korea.

Observer 'To Complete War Plans'

SK131300Y Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 0711 GMT 13 Mar 78 SK

[Unattributed commentary: "What Does the War Maniac Who Flew Into the Military Exercise Site Seek?"]

[Text] The so-called joint South Korea-U.S. military exercise, in which some 100,000 troops of the U.S. Army, Navy, Air Force and Marine Corps and great numbers of South Korean puppet armed forces have been mobilized is getting larger as the days pass. The U.S. imperialists, who have marshalled a great number of troops and many armaments, are making a daily commotion by firing weapons during various military operations such as ground operations, landing operations and air attack operations, and these are being carried out to simulate an offensive against the northern half of the republic.

In particular, military operations are being carried out more frantically near the military demarcation line, along which the two sides confront each other. The military exercise sponsored by the U.S. imperialists is reaching a more reckless stage. Amid the increased tension due to this, a man with the title of U.S. deputy secretary of defense sneaked into South Korea on 11 March. From the very moment he set foot in South Korea, where there has been a noisy playing with fire, he raised war hysteria, clamoring about the effects of the military exercise. During his stay in South Korea it was said he would observe the joint exercise and have a series of huddles to discuss measures to strengthen the South Korean puppet armed forces and to guarantee the security of South Korea. This bodes ill.

As was reported, the military exercise which the U.S. imperialists are currently conducting is based on a plan for the emergency dispatch of U.S. troops, an offensive operations plan to promptly dispatch to South Korea large U.S. units from the mainland and the Pacific area, so as to provoke a war of aggression against our republic. Accordingly, the exercise reflects a plan for an all-out war, simulating an offensive against the northern half of the republic on land, sea and in the air.

For this criminal purpose, the U.S. imperialists have mobilized in the joint South Korea-U.S. military exercise a great number of troops such as an infantry division, an army Special Forces unit, a missile battalion and National Guardsmen who were flown in either from the U.S. mainland or bases in the Pacific area, and numerous offensive means such as the attack carrier Midway with nuclear weapons aboard, B-52 strategic bombers which can carry nuclear bombs, and nuclear-powered submarines which can launch nuclear-tipped missiles. They are carrying out warlike military exercises mainly in an area along the military demarcation line, which they have designated as a major zone of operations.

When the large-scale joint military exercise started, men like the U.S. defense secretary and the U.S. army chief of staff clamored that the United States would promptly dispatch U.S. troops to the Korean front in case of an emergency and that the United States has plans to send some forces immediately. This represents a reckless war plan of the U.S. imperialists opposing our republic.

In view of the provocative character and danger of the military exercise which the U.S. imperialists are currently carrying out, it is absurd to say that the trip to South Korea by the U.S. deputy defense secretary is merely aimed at observing the exercise.

during the exercise to verify, at the place where the provocative military exercise is being conducted, the criminal plan for an all-out war of the U.S. imperialists who are trying to realize their ambition for aggression against Korea, and to further supplement and complete it. This man is also trying to incite the South Korean puppet clique to a war adventure against our republic. Needless to say, the series of huddles he will have in Seoul with the puppet clique on the subject of guaranteeing South Korea's security are related to the realization of the criminal, heinous plan. In sum, he has sneaked into South Korea with the purpose of supplementing, completing and coordinating in detail the plan for an all-out war against our republic.

The U.S. imperialists are trying to continue their occupation policy in South Korea, to threaten the Korean people with force and, furthermore, to obstruct Korea's reunification and trigger a fresh war of aggression. This is a vicious challenge to our people and the world's peace-loving peoples, whose unanimous desire and aspiration is to see a solid peace established in Korea and to realize Korea's reunification through independent and peaceful means and without any intervention by outside forces.

It would be folly for the U.S. imperialists to continue to pursue war adventures against the demands of the times and the desire of all peoples, and to try to frighten someone or obtain something by force. Those who like playing with fire will be burned to death. The U.S. imperialists should not forget the lessons of history and should promptly halt their war racket and withdraw from South Korea without delay all their aggressive armed forces.

MEDIA REPORT, SCORE DAILY OPERATIONS OF JOINT EXERCISE

10 March

OW101629Y Pyongyang KCNA in English 1616 GMT 10 Mar 78 OW

[Text] Pyongyang, 10 Mar (KCNA)--The U.S. imperialists and the Pak Chong-hui puppet clique are staging the military exercise more frantically in the sky, land and sea of South Korea to incite hostility to the northern half of the republic and North-South confrontation, according to a report.

In an attempt to whip up war hysteria they announced that on March 10 the U.S. forces and the puppet army participating in the war game "are waging a bloody battle with tens of thousands of imaginary enemy troops on all fronts."

The U.S. and puppet air forces were mobilized in a provocative "bombing operation" to attack the "enemy's supply route and rear" in all areas of the military exercise, immediately south of the military demarcation line.

The "air close support" for covering the "operation" of the ground force was also conducted. Along with this, an exercise of "fire support" to the ground force was held with the mobilisation of "Lance" missiles deployed in the central western area south of the military demarcation line. A motorised puppet army division was hurriedly sent from the base north of Seoul to the theatre of the war exercise near the MDL to expand the military rehearsal.

The war gamble continued in the east and south seas, too. The firing exercise of the high-speed craft was staged in the east sea on March 10 with the support of the aircraft carrier Midway and other warships of the U.S. 7th Fleet and warships of the puppet navy, and an "anti-submarine operation" of the U.S. and puppet naval forces was conducted on the south sea.

The U.S. imperialists held the "landing operation" of the marines on the east coast on the 10th.

The week-long frantic war exercise in the south and east seas brought great sufferings to the fishermen there.

The U.S. imperialists must stop the reckless military exercise bringing disasters to the people and increasing the danger of war and quit South Korea, taking along all their aggression troops and destruction weapons.

11 March

SK120600Y Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 0100 GMT 12 Mar 78 SK

[Text] According to reports, the U.S. imperialists are continuing their provocative acts, further aggravating the situation by expanding the scale of the war exercise on the land and sea and in the skies in the area along the military demarcation line.

According to a report, from early morning till late evening on 11 March the U.S. imperialists kicked up a racket, conducting offensive and defensive operations against simulated "two division-size enemy forces" in the central and western sectors south of the military demarcation line, mobilizing ground troops and aircraft including mechanized units of the U.S. 2d Infantry Division and the puppet army.

It is said that U.S. imperialists also mobilized for this provocative exercise a division-size unit of the "Homeland Defense Reserve Forces," which have been organized as an auxiliary force of the puppet army for use as a bullet shield in a new war of aggression against Korea.

The U.S. imperialists are also creating a tense atmosphere on the east and south seas with a planned large-scale amphibious landing operation exercise simulating an attack against the northern half of the republic.

The rascals are also kicking up a racket by constantly taking off and landing aircraft on the aircraft carriers Midway in an attempt to "threaten" someone.

It is also said that they have fully armed the U.S. Marine troops abroad their naval ships, including the helicopter carrier Tripoli, and have placed them on alert.

According to another report, the U.S. imperialists also committed the provocative act of mobilizing the U.S. 12th Anti-Mine Helicopter Operations Unit dispatched from the U.S. mainland for a mine sweeping exercise.

The U.S. imperialists are more frantically running wild in kicking up this military exercise to threaten the South Korean people who are struggling against fascism and for democratization, to continue their colonial rule over South Korea and to drive the puppets to war ventures in defiance of world public opinion. But no matter how desperately they may run wild, the U.S. imperialists cannot escape the crisis in their colonial rule over South Korea nor realize their aggressive ambitions toward Korea.

12 March

SK130425Y Pyongyang KCNA in English 0416 GMT 13 Mar 78 SK

[Text] Pyongyang, 13 Mar (KCNA)--The joint military exercise of the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets went over to full-dress offensive exercise.

According to a report, on the morning of March 12, signalled by a sham firing by the "Lance" missile unit, U.S. and puppet infantry units with motorized units formed with "M-48" and "M-60" tanks in their van went over to a frantic "offensive operation" in the central western sector immediately south of the military demarcation line. The blood-thirsty U.S. imperialist murderers mobilized many fighter-bombers to cover the provocative "operation" of the ground units and scores of helicopters to drop heavy equipment and supplies.

Simultaneously with this, the U.S. Marines and puppet marines launched a provocative full-dress "landing operation" simulating an attack on the coast of the northern half of the republic on the Eastern Sea under the cover of the aircraft carriers Midway and Tripoli and other warships of the U.S. 7th Fleet.

The U.S. imperialist war maniacs covered the landing of the marine units with the bombing by warplanes of the aircraft carriers and bombardment from the warships. They blared that the landing forces "secured a birdgehead on the imaginary enemy coast and are moving toward the inland."

U.S. Deputy Defence Secretary Duncan, a warmonger, reportedly directed and inspected the frantic "landing operation" exercise of the U.S. and puppet forces on the spot.

If the U.S. imperialists think they can frighten us with such indiscreet military games, it is a gross miscalculation. If they continue heading for the brink of war and unleash anew war of aggression in Korea, defying our warnings, they will only meet their own destruction.

HO TAM REPORTS TENSE SITUATION TO NONALINED CHAIRMAN

SK130101Y Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 2200 GMT 12 Mar 78 SK

[Text] In connection with the so-called ROK-U.S. joint exercise which the U.S. imperialists and the Pak Chong-hui puppet clique are conducting in South Korea by mobilizing large-scale aggressive armed forces, Foreign Minister Ho Tam has sent the following cable to A.C.S. Hameed, foreign minister of Sri Lanka, the nation which holds the chairmanship of the fifth nonaligned nations summit conference:

Your Excellency A.C.S. Hameed, foreign minister of Sri Lanka, the nation holding the chairmanship of the fifth nonaligned nations summit conference, Colombo:

I am very pleased with the properly developing relations of friendship and cooperation between our two countries and at the same time would like to express my regards to you who, as foreign minister of the chairmanship nation of the fifth nonaligned nations summit conference, have made great efforts to realize the great cause of the nonaligned movement.

Your Excellency: I am sending this cable to you in recognition of the need for all non-aligned nations to pay close attention to the situation developing in our country. A DPRK Foreign Ministry spokesman's statement of 6 March clearly stressed that the war games of the United States have made the situation in our country extremely tense, and peace and stability in Asia are being seriously threatened. The statement demanded that this reckless war scheme be suspended immediately.

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Despite this, the United States is carrying out in South Korea a joint South Korea-U.S. exercise called "Team Spirit 1978" -the largest exercise since the 1953 armistice, mobilizing a large number of troops and modern military equipment and bringing the situation in our country to the brink of war.

If the war policy of the United States and the South Korean authorities is not checked in a timely manner, it will be impossible to remove the danger of a new war in Korea and, furthermore, Asian and world peace will not be preserved.

The threat to the DPRK, a member nation of the nonaligned movement, constitutes a threat to all member nations of the nonaligned movement. Therefore, the elimination of tension and the preservation of peace in Korea is the common cause of the peoples of the nonaligned nations.

The war racket which the United States and the South Korean authorities are waging in South Korea must be immediately discontinued. The United States must immediately withdraw its military forces and all military equipment, including nuclear weapons, from South Korea.

In connection with this cable, I want your Excellency, as the foreign minister of the chairmanship nation of the fifth nonaligned nation summit conference, to have all non-aligned nations pay close attention to the tense situation in our country and to urge foreign ministers of the nonaligned nations to contribute to realizing peace and the peaceful reunification of Korea.

Believing relations between our two countries will further develop and strengthen in many fields in the future, I wish Your Excellency new success in your activities to oppose imperialism and colonialism and to strengthen and develop the nonaligned movement.

KCNA SCORES U.S. EXERCISES IN SOUTH KOREA IN 1977

OW101639Y Pyongyang KCNA in English 1601 GMT 10 Mar 78 OW

[Text] Pyongyang, 10 Mar (KCNA)--The U.S. imperialists' war provocation manoeuvres disturbing peace and opposing the independent and peaceful reunification of Korea have entered a graver stage. This is clearly borne out by their military exercises committed behind the smokescreen of "troop pullout" in the last year.

A powder smell given off by unending joint military exercises hung in the air all the year round throughout South Korea. To cite only a few instances, there were the "joint South Korea-U.S. landing exercise" held in the Pohang area, North Kyongsang Province, and the "joint South Korea-U.S. operational exercise" in the central sector of the front in March and April, the "Sanggyong operation No 7" of the U.S. forces and puppet army on the east sea and the "joint South Korea-U.S. anti-submarine exercise" in the coastal waters of South Korea in December.

All these provocative military manoeuvres were, without exception, simulated attacks on the northern half of the republic. In these war games the U.S. imperialists mobilised not only their aggression forces in South Korea but also brought in huge armed forces from the U.S. mainland, military bases in Hawaii, Guam, Japan, the Philippines and other regions of the western Pacific to threaten the Korean people.

The current "joint South Korea-U.S. military exercise" is participated in by such ground forces as the First Infantry Division and the Third Marine Division, a missile unit belonging to the U.S. third artillery corps [as received], warships of the U.S. Seventh Fleet and various types of warplanes of the U.S. 313th Air Division and the U.S. third tactical flying corps.

The U.S. imperialists' military exercises expanded in scale and assumed a protracted nature.

U.S. ground, naval and air forces and marines and the puppet army, more than 100,000 strong, are mobilised in the present "joint South Korea-U.S. military exercise" planned to continue for 10-odd days.

The U.S. imperialists mobilised large armed forces in the "joint South Korea-U.S. landing exercise" which started in early March and continued till early April last year. Since August 1976 they have been regularly staging bombing exercises of Guam-based strategic bombers in the air above South Korea two-three times every month and long-distance low-altitude flight exercises of Kadena-based warplanes to South Korea.

The areas closer to the military demarcation line were chosen as the theatre of these military rehearsals. They repeatedly conducted "joint operational exercises" with the South Korean puppets in the central sector of the front in March and April last year to aggravate the situation.

This time, too, they designated the areas along the military demarcation line linking the central and western sectors of the front as the main theatre of the war game.

In these provocative military exercises, they resort even to nuclear blackmail.

All these facts clearly show that the U.S. imperialists persist in their policies of aggression and war against our country and further step up these policies behind the smokescreen of the "troop withdrawal." With the stereotyped false propaganda about the "threat of southward invasion," they cannot justify their provocative military exercises. They must give up the anachronistic desire to maintain their colonial ruling system in South Korea and invade the northern half of the republic with it as a stepping-stone.

PRESS CONTINUES TO CONDEMN JOINT EXERCISE AS WAR PROVOCATION

11 March NODONG SINMUN Commentary

SK110600Y Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 2248 GMT 10 Mar 78 SK

[NODONG SINMUN 11 March commentary: "The U.S. Imperialists Are Trying To Trigger a New War in South Korea"]

[Text] Due to the reckless military exercise racket of the U.S. aggressive forces and the South Korean puppet army which began on 7 March, the land and skies of South Korea are shaking with the sound of gunfire and bursting bombs and are filled with powder smoke.

The joint military exercise scheduled to be conducted throughout South Korea for 11 days is not being held for the sake of training. This military exercise--the largest one since the Korean armistice--is actually a combat exercise designed to quickly introduce U.S. forces into action when the U.S. imperialists trigger a new war in Korea.

The extremely provocative and dangerous nature of this exercise lies in the fact that it simulates a general attack for immediately smashing an enemy at the outset of hostilities. This joint military exercise is being conducted based on the plan for emergency mobilization of U.S. forces--an offensive operational plan prepared by the U.S. imperialists for a new aggressive war against our republic--by immediately sending into South Korea units from the U.S. mainland and the Pacific area in case of an emergency. This war plan, which was announced by Defense Secretary Brown recently, is essentially similar to previous clamoring by the U.S. war maniacs about a 9-day operation, a 7-day operation and a 5-day operation against our republic.

This military exercise involves units from all services and branches of the U.S. imperialist armed forces which were enumerated in Brown's emergency mobilization plan. That is to say, this military exercise involves large forces from the U.S. mainland, Hawaii, Guam, Okinawa, the Japanese mainland and the Philippines--including U.S. Army, Navy, Air Force and Marine units stationed in South Korea.

The rapid deployment of large-scale armed forces of all services and branches into combat areas, ground operations, amphibious landing operations, river-crossing operations, bombing exercises and heavy equipment air drop operations simulating attacks against the northern half of our republic--all these reveal the general war plan of the U.S. imperialists.

The large-scale mobilization of numerous airplanes of all types, including B-52 strategic bombers, many naval ships including aircraft carriers, various types of rockets, tanks and other modern lethal weapons and equipment stems from the reckless war plan of U.S. imperialists to win a war, if triggered, in a short period of time by utilizing all available means.

The size and composition of the aggressive armed forces mobilized in this military exercise and their content characterized in these offensive operations clearly reveal to the world that the U.S. imperialists have established an extremely dangerous plan for triggering an aggressive war against our republic in the skies, on the land and at sea. This military exercise also clearly and concretely reveals that the U.S. imperialists are trying to use South Korea to ignite a new war and that they are accelerating preparations to implement their war plan.

The fact that this military exercise is aimed at accelerating preparations for triggering a war of aggression in Korea is also evident in the use of the area close to the military demarcation line as the major operational zone for the exercise. There is a great quantity of U.S. imperialists' mass destruction weapons and military equipment, including nuclear weapons, and troops concentrated in this area. Conducting the military exercise here is as reckless and dangerous as playing with fire near a powderkeg. This is a dangerous and reckless act by the U.S. imperialists, who intend to begin their northward invasion from the military demarcation line and are familiarizing their troops with the area for combat operations in case of emergency.

The gravity of this military exercise is also reflected in the fact that large-scale forces with nuclear attack capability have been mobilized. In this exercise the U.S. imperialists are using the aircraft carrier Midway equipped with nuclear weapons, B-52 strategic bombers capable of carrying nuclear bombs, the 18th Tactical Fighter Squadron which is a nuclear attack unit, and Lance missiles capable of launching nuclear warheads.

This reveals that the U.S. imperialists do not hesitate to risk a nuclear war to accomplish their aggressive aims against Korea.

Noteworthy in this joint military exercise is that the U.S. imperialists are desperately dragging Japan into it. Most of the U.S. armed forces concentrated in South Korea have been mobilized from bases in Japan, including Okinawa, and troops and military equipment from the United States were brought in, using bases in Japan as relay points. This means that Japanese territory has been provided for free use by the U.S. imperialists as an initial mobilization base, an operational and supply base and a nuclear strike base for aggression against Korea.

In carrying out their policy for a war of aggression against Korea, the U.S. imperialists are trying to mobilize and utilize not only Japanese territory but also the Japanese Self-Defense Forces. It is no secret that the U.S.-Japan defense cooperation sub-committee has discussed joint operations several times and has discussed military responsibilities in case of an emergency in Korea. Even in the past, Japanese Self-Defense Forces frequently launched air exercises with the U.S. imperialist aggressive forces simulating war in Korea, and last year it launched such exercises on a large scale with the South Korean puppet forces.

This joint military exercise now going on in South Korea involves the United States, Japan and South Korea, and is being used to strengthen that trilateral Alliance.

Through this exercise the U.S. imperialists are pursuing the additional aim of strengthening the South Korean puppet forces for a new round of war provocations. They are attempting to transfer to the South Korean puppets enormous quantities of military equipment and lethal weapons dragged into South Korea under the pretext of the military exercise, and thus to strengthen the puppet's war capability. This shows that the U.S. imperialists use the signboard of withdrawal as a shield to camouflage a military buildup and war preparations in South Korea.

As is known, the United States has not given up its aggressive designs on Korea and is striving to make South Korea a new battle field. The military exercise racket of the U.S. imperialists is an open manifestation of their evil intent 1) to block peace in Korea by threatening our people, 2) to hold on to South Korea permanently as their colony and military base by fabricating "two Koreas," and 3) to fulfill their aggressive ambition against all of Korea.

This military exercise is a criminal maneuver to give a shot in the arm to the Pak Chong-hui puppet clique, which has been completely isolated and rejected domestically and internationally, and to further drive the puppets to suppression, split and war adventure. The war exercise racket by the splittists at home and abroad is further aggravating Korea's political situation and threatens peace in Asia and the world. This reckless war exercise more clearly reveals the U.S. imperialists' aggressive nature, and is evoking great denunciation and criticism from the world's peoples.

If the U.S. imperialists are dreaming of threatening our people with "strength," this is a foolish illusion. They must stop their reckless war exercise and withdraw from South Korea all their troops and means of war.

11 March MINJU CHOSON Commentary

OW111125Y Pyongyang KCNA in English 1110 GMT 11 Mar 78 OW

[Text] Pyongyang, 11 Mar (KCNA)--The reckless war game of the U.S. imperialists increases the danger of war in Korea and gravely threatens peace in Asia and the world. So says MINJU CHOSON today in a commentary denouncing the U.S. imperialists' expansion of the "joint South Korea-U.S. military exercise" into a more provocative war game.

It goes on: In the ground and sky and in the east sea along the military demarcation line, the military manoeuvre of the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets has developed into full-dress three-dimensional offensive operation exercise simulating a massive armed attack on the northern half of the republic. This exercise stripped naked the true color of the U.S. imperialists and the disturber of peace, aggressor and warmonger.

The commentator recalls that the U.S. imperialists have already set up the "operational command system" and "logistic support system" for a war of aggression in Korea, increased the U.S. air and naval forces in South Korea, largely reinforced the aggression forces in their military bases in Okinawa, Japan proper, Guam and other bases around Korea, while handing over various kinds of sophisticated destruction weapons and combat equipment to the Pak Chong-hui puppet clique to turn South Korea into a powder keg and hotbed of war.

Noting that the ongoing military exercise is to examine and perfect the war preparations, the commentary says: What is particularly grave is that they mobilized strategic bombers capable of carrying nuclear bombs, an aircraft carrier loaded with nuclear weapons and a nuclear-powered submarine equipped with nuclear missiles and launched the firing exercise of nuclear warhead-capable "Lance" missiles.

Our people will never tolerate the criminal act of the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets in disturbing peace and opposing the independent and peaceful reunification of the country. The U.S. imperialists must look squarely at reality and act with discretion, warns the commentary in conclusion.

12 March NODONG SINMUN Commentary

SK121254Y Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 2230 GMT 11 Mar 78 SK

[NODONG SINMUN 12 March commentary: "War Racket Which Has Reached a Reckless Stage"]

[Text] The joint South Korea-U.S. military exercise which the U.S. imperialists have been carrying out since 7 March, instigating the Pak Chong-hui puppet clique, is entering a more reckless stage. The U.S. imperialists have created a war racket every day along the military demarcation line, mobilizing a great quantity of weapons. It is said that they will launch a fresh assault operation starting on 12 March with a landing operation on Kanghwa Island.

With a view to completing their plan to mount an offensive against the northern half of the republic, the U.S. imperialists have amassed in South Korea their occupation forces, the South Korean puppet soldiers and U.S. Army, Navy and Air Force troops from bases on the U.S. mainland, Hawaii, Japan, the Pacific area and the Philippines. They have been deployed along the military demarcation line and occupy combat positions.

The U.S. imperialists long ago mapped out what is called the "7-day operational plan" designed to strike at the center of the northern half of the republic and have accelerated war preparations. The joint South Korea-U.S. military exercise is said to be aimed at orchestrating cooperation between the U.S. and the South Korean puppet soldiers for any emergency on the Korean Peninsula, but its true purpose can be seen in the shifting of the exercise to an overall offensive operation scheduled to last for 6 days.

They say that the offensive operation is based on probable developments in an emergency. However, this operation which is being carried out along the military demarcation line bordering on the northern half of the republic brings the situation closer to war and could trigger a war at any time they choose. It is not strange then that the world strongly denounced the U.S. imperialists and the Pak Chong-hui puppet clique for playing with fire, noting the danger arising from the development of an ominous situation in Korea.

The U.S. imperialists conceal their war plan and, to justify the joint military exercise, describe it as a measure related to the gradual withdrawal of U.S. ground troops from South Korea. But the truth is that although they talk about troop withdrawal they are strengthening the U.S. occupation forces in South Korea, reinforcing the puppet armed forces through the transfer of more weapons than ever before and creating more frequent war rackets by instigating the puppets.

In addition to the weapons already turned over, the military equipment which the U.S. imperialists still plan to transfer to the puppets comes to several billion dollars, and the large-scale military exercises they have conducted for the purpose of completing combat readiness number more than ten, including a joint South Korea-Japan military exercise held in the eastern sea. This shows that their slogan of "troop withdrawal" has been used mainly as a cover to develop military integration among South Korea, the United States and Japan, and to accelerate war preparations.

The joint military exercise which is being carried out on the land, in sea and in the sky in simulation of an all-out offensive against us is the product of a deliberate war scheme to supplement and complete combat readiness which the U.S. imperialists have stepped up by instigating the puppets.

That military actions are carried out near the military demarcation line along which the North and South confront each other militarily is extremely dangerous, adventurous and provocative. We are watching with a high degree of vigilance the U.S. imperialists' indiscreet act of instigating the Pak Chong-hui clique, which is isolated from the people and tries to find a way to survive through military adventures, in this playing with fire.

The U.S. imperialists' war racket is an unpardonable act of aggression designed to disturb peace in Korea and to place a new obstacle on the path of Korea's peaceful reunification. It is a serious act blatantly violating the (?armistice) agreement, which bans the reinforcement, deployment or introduction of military personnel and equipment within the boundaries of Korea and anticipates the withdrawal of all foreign troops from Korea and the peaceful settlement of the Korean question.

The U.S. imperialists should promptly stop the military exercise racket against our people, withdraw without delay all aggressive armed forces from South Korea and take their hands off Korea, suspending their instigation of the Pak Chong-hui puppet clique in its war adventures.

12 March NODONG SINMUN Article

SK131010Y Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 0724 GMT 12 Mar 78 SK

[NODONG SINMUN 12 March article: "The World's Peoples Strongly Denounce the Joint U.S.-South Korea Military Exercise"]

[Text] The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song instructed: The U.S. imperialists create the danger of war on the Korean peninsula. It is not we who are threatening the U.S. imperialists, but the U.S. imperialists who are threatening us.

Presently, the U.S. imperialists and the Pak Chong-hui puppet clique are conducting a large-scale military exercise by mobilizing large military forces and thereby aggravating tension in Korea and driving the situation toward the brink of war. The U.S. imperialists and the Pak Chong-hui puppet clique have been conducting the largest military exercise--dubbed "Team Spirit '78"--held since the Korean armistice, mobilizing U.S. Army, Navy, Air Force and Marine Corps units, and 100,000 South Korean puppet troops, along with modern mass destruction weapons such as nuclear weapons, warships, warplanes, rockets and tanks. They have turned all South Korea into a war zone.

The U.S. imperialists' reckless playing with fire is an open challenge to the Korean people, and an ominous criminal act threatening the peace in Asia and the world. All peace-loving peoples and various sectors throughout the world invariably and strongly denounce this maniacal military exercise. Statements are being issued and struggles are being waged against it.

The Cambodian Ministry of Foreign Affairs spokesman said in a statement that his government strongly opposes the U.S. imperialists' and the South Korean puppet clique's criminal maneuvers in waging the large-scale exercise racket. He further declared: The U.S. imperialists should discard the criminal two-Koreas policy and stop the aggression against and intervention and involvement in Korea. Furthermore, the U.S. imperialists should withdraw all their aggressive troops from South Korea, along with all their military equipment, including nuclear weapons.

The international liaison committee for the independent and peaceful reunification of Korea noted in its statement that this military exercise poses an especially formidable threat to peace in Asia and the world. It further pointed out: We appeal to all committees supporting the independent and peaceful reunification of Korea and all progressive forces throughout the world to wage a large-scale campaign to reveal and denounce this war preparation maneuver, and to strengthen the movement for solidarity with the Korean people who are struggling to realize the fatherland's independent and peaceful reunification.

The director of popular mobilization of the Japan Socialist Party, in a statement issued on 4 March, denounced this military exercise as a new military plot against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea simulating a second Korean war, and as an ominous provocation against peace and peaceful reunification of the Korean Peninsula and peace in Japan and Asia. He went on to emphasize: The Japan Socialist Party demands that the United States stop the combined military exercise and that the Japanese Government refuse any cooperation with it.

Some 100 renowned Japanese scholars and cultural personages issued a joint statement demanding an immediate halt to the joint exercise. In a joint statement, they said that it is aimed at perpetrating Korea's division and at aggravating tension in Asia,

and emphasized that the United States should responsibly fulfill its responsibilities spelled out in the UN General Assembly's resolution and immediately stop this military exercise which threatens peace and security in Asia and obstructs Korea's independent and peaceful reunification.

Various publications and news media throughout the world are strongly denouncing the U.S. imperialists' provocative and aggressive military exercise. China's NEW CHINA NEWS AGENCY said that the U.S. military forces' forceful hold on South Korea aggravates tension in Korea and constitutes a basic obstacle to Korea's reunification. It further pointed out that the peoples of China, Asia and the rest of the world are strongly denouncing the United States' and the Pak Chong-hui clique's war provocation maneuver aimed at perpetuating Korea's division and aggravating tension on the Korean Peninsula.

The Soviet TASS News Agency, denouncing the U.S.-South Korea joint exercise, said that such a demonstration of force, at a time when the DPRK Government is struggling for the fatherland's independent and peaceful reunification, cannot be considered anything less than a challenge to all peace-loving peoples and an ominous violation of peace in Asia and the world.

Vietnam's NHAN DAN denounced the U.S. imperialists' provocative military exercise racket as an ominous provocative maneuver opposing the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. It emphasized: We demand that all U.S. military forces, weapons and other military equipment be withdrawn from South Korea, so that the Korean people can realize their country's independent and peaceful reunification.

The news agency of people's Democratic Republic of Yemen and the Lao paper SIANG PASASON denounced the U.S.-South Korea joint exercise. The Tanzanian DAILY NEWS, touching on the exercise, said that this is a dangerous act to accelerate war preparations against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

The U.S. imperialists' war exercise racket is an ominously criminal and aggressive act threatening the peace in Korea and the world. They should halt their reckless staging of anachronistic war maneuvers, and, as indicated in the UN resolution, withdraw from South Korea with all their aggressive troops and weapons of destruction.

NATIONAL PEACE COMMITTEE DENOUNCES U.S.-ROK JOINT EXERCISE

OW111651Y Pyongyang KCNA in English 1634 GMT 11 Mar 78 OW

[Text] Pyongyang, 11 Mar (KCNA)--The Korean National Peace Committee on 10 March published a statement denouncing the "joint South Korea-U.S. military exercise" now being staged by the U.S. imperialists and the Pak Chong-hui puppet clique in South Korea with the mobilization of huge armed forces.

The statement stressed that the military manoeuvre by the aggressors and traitors is a reckless war gamble for aggravating tension and starting a new war in Korea and a feverish war hysteria for destroying peace in Korea and obstructing her peaceful reunification.

It went on: The Korean National Peace Committee decisively denounces the dangerous military gamble of the U.S. imperialists and the Pak Chong-hui puppet clique, regarding it as a grave violation of peace and security in Korea and Asia and a vicious challenge to the entire Korean people and world peaceloving people who desire peace in Korea and her peaceful reunification.

In choosing our country as the theatre of a war exercise, the United States was urged by the aggressive scheme to threaten the Korean people with "danger" give a shot in the arm to the South Korean puppets--forsaken by the nation--and over the crisis of its crumbling colonial rule and keep South Korea as its colony and military base indefinitely, the statement said, and continued: The United States, looking straight at reality, should stop at once the dangerous war game unprofitable to the American people and withdraw from South Korea without delay, taking all its aggression troops and weapons of destruction.

Terming the "joint South Korea-U.S. military exercise" as a crime against our nation, a product of the treacherous act of such quislings as traitor Pak Chong-hui, the statement said that the Pak Chong-hui puppet clique should step down from "power" with their fascist "yusin" machinery.

The Japanese ruling circles should desist from the criminal act of offering the Japanese territory as a military base of the U.S. troops for attacking the Korean people again.

If the U.S. imperialists and their stooges persist in the reckless military manoeuvre in defiance of the strong warnings served by our people, they will have to bear full responsibility for all the grave consequences arising from it, warned the statement. In conclusion, the statement expressed the belief that all the anti-war peace organisations and peoples of the world will intensify the common struggle to check and frustrate the reckless military adventures of the U.S. imperialists and the Pak Chong-hui puppet clique and extend more active support and solidarity to our people in the just cause of the independent and peaceful reunification of the country.

TASS DENUNCIATION OF JOINT EXERCISE CITED

SK130615Y Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 2300 GMT 11 Mar 78 SK

[Text] On 10 March, the Soviet news agency TASS carried a commentator's article entitled "War Exercise--Playing With Fire" denouncing the South Korean-U.S. joint operational exercise.

Saying U.S. Defense Department leaders are playing a dangerous game in the joint exercise now being conducted in South Korea, TASS revealed that an exercise for launching Lance missiles capable of delivering nuclear warheads had been conducted in an area north of Seoul.

Quoting foreign media as saying the war exercise will include a nuclear counterattack exercise against a simulated attack from the North and an exercise to occupy the area from which the simulated attack was initiated, the news agency continued: If foreign media reports are true, this is not only an overt and violent scheme of nuclear blackmail against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea which has endeavored to realize fatherland reunification independently, on democratic principles and by peaceful means, but is also a dangerous and provocative act against this socialist country.

Foreign military experts, in particular Japanese military experts, do not exclude the possibility that Lance missiles mobilized in this exercise may be transferred to South Korea after its completion. Meanwhile, a plan to transfer these missiles to South Korea has been discussed in the U.S. Senate.

Last Feb. Nov., Defense Secretary Brown again hinted this by clamoring about the South Korean Army with the latest weapons.

The joint exercises on the Korean Peninsula, including a nuclear warfare exercise, and the military buildup of the South Korean puppet army will only further increase tension in this region. The peace-loving people of the world are sternly condemning this indiscreet playing with fire in an area close to the military demarcation line and, at the same time, strongly demand the immediate discontinuation of the military exercise.

PYONGYANG RADIO REPORTS TITO VISIT TO U.S.

SK102345Y Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 2300 GMT 10 Mar 78 SK

[Text] According to a report, Yugoslav President Tito made an official visit to the United States from 7 to 9 March. During the visit he had a talk with the U.S. President and a communique was announced in connection with the visit's results.

REPORT ON RECENTLY CONCLUDED CPPCC SESSION IN CHINA

SK110547Y Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 2200 GMT 9 Mar 78 SK

[Excerpts] According to a report from the NEW CHINA NEWS AGENCY, the first session of the Fifth National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference [CPPCC] successfully closed on 8 March at the Great Hall of the People in Peking after having completed discussions on all proposed agenda.

The session unanimously adopted the resolutions and decisions made at the session. The session unanimously elected Comrade Teng Hsiao-ping as chairman of the Fifth National Standing Committee of the CPPCC. The session also elected 243 members of the Fifth National Standing Committee of the CPPCC.

The session met for 13 days. During that period all members of the Standing Committee attended the first session of the Fifth National People's Congress as observers and discussed Premier Huo-feng's report on Government work and Vice Chairman Yeh Chien-hing's report on the revision of the constitution. They also discussed the draft of the new constitution and the draft of the 10-year plan for the development of the national economy. The session also reviewed and summed up the work of the Fourth National Committee of the CPPCC and discussed the new resolutions of the CPPCC.

DELEGATION LED BY KIM YONG-NAM VISITS ROMANIA

OW121011Y Pyongyang KCNA in English 0819 GMT 12 Mar 78 OW

[Text] Pyongyang, 12 Mar (KCNA)--Comrade Kim Yong-nam, a special envoy of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers Party of Korea and president of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, stayed in Romania together with his entourage, according to a report from Bucharest.

Talks were held on March 8 and 9 between Comrade Kim Yong-nam, alternate member of the Political Committee, and secretary, of the Central Committee of the Workers Party of Korea, and Stefan Andrei, alternate member of the Executive Political Committee, and secretary, of the Central Committee of the Romanian Communist Party.

Views were exchanged between the two sides at the talks on the problem of the friendly and cooperative relations between the two countries and two parties and a number of international problems of mutual concern.

While staying in Romania the special envoy of the great leader and his entourage visited factories and cultural institutions in Bucharest.

Meets With Ceausescu

SK110450Y Pyongyang KCNA in English 0339 GMT 11 Mar 78 SK

[Text] Pyongyang, 11 Mar (KCNA)--Comrade Nicolae Ceausescu, general secretary of the Romanian Communist Party and president of the Romanian Socialist Republic, on March 8 received Comrade Kim Yong-nam, alternate member of the Political Committee, and secretary, of the Central Committee of the Workers Party of Korea, on a visit to Romania as a special envoy of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers Party of Korea and president of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, according to a report from Bucharest.

On hand were the entourage of the special envoy and Sin Il-ha, DPRK ambassador to Romania, as well as Stefan Andrei, alternate member of the Executive Political Committee, and secretary, of the Central Committee of the Romanian Communist Party, and Dumitru Turcus, vice-director of the External Relations Department of the Central Committee of the party.

The special envoy courteously conveyed a personal letter and cordial regards of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song to Comrade Nicolae Ceausescu. Comrade Nicolae Ceausescu asked "how is respected Comrade Kim Il-song?" and expressed deep thanks for the personal letter and cordial regards of the great leader. He asked the special envoy to convey his warm greetings and wishes to the great leader.

He expressed full support to the Korean people in their struggle for the independent and peaceful reunification of the country. The conversation proceeded in a friendly atmosphere.

Returns Home

SK130410Y Pyongyang KCNA in English 0405 GMT 13 Mar 78 SK

[Text] Pyongyang, 13 Mar (KCNA)--Comrade Kim Yong-nam returned home on March 12 by special plane after visiting the Romanian Socialist Republic as a special envoy of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers Party of Korea and president of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

He was met at the airport by Kim Hwan, Yi Chong-mok, Hyon Chun-kuk and other personages concerned. On hand were Romania Ambassador Dumitru Popa and Soviet Ambassador G.A. Kriulin to our country.

The special envoy left Bucharest on March 11. He was seen off at the airport by Stefan Andrei, alternate member of the Executive Political Committee, and secretary, of the Central Committee of the Romanian Communist Party, Ghizela Vass, member, and vice-director of the External Relations Department, of the Central Committee of the party, and other personages concerned, as well as the ambassador of our country to Romania.

PYONGYANG MEETING MARKS ANNIVERSARY OF PEASANTS UNION

OW101135Y Pyongyang KCNA in English 1040 GMT 10 Mar 78 OW

[Excerpt] Pyongyang, 10 Mar (KCNA)--A central report meeting marking the 50th anniversary of the peasants union organized and led in person by the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song was held at the People's Palace of Culture on March 9.

Placed with due respect on the platform was a portrait of the great leader of our party and our people Comrade Kim Il-song. The meeting hall was packed with leading functionaries of the central organs, propagandists of provincial, city and county organisations of the Union of Agricultural Working People, members of the co-operative farms around Pyongyang and working people in the city.

In the platform party were Comrades So Chol, Im Chun-chu, O Paek-yong, Kang Song-san, Pak Su-tong, Kim Man-kum and Hwang Chang-yop, leading functionaries of party and working people's organisations, anti-Japanese revolutionary fighters and labour heroes.

Im Chun-chu Report

SK101328Y Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 0400 GMT 10 Mar 78 SK

[Text of report by Im Chun-chu at 9 March meeting commemorating the 50th anniversary of the founding of the Peasants Union, held at the Pyongyang People's Palace of Culture--read by announcer]

[Excerpts] Comrades: Enthusiastically upholding the magnificent program for socialist construction unfolded by the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song and the letter of the Central Committee of the party to all party members, today the entire party, nation and people are vigorously waging an all-out movement to attain the high eminences of the second 7-year plan ahead of schedule. A great revolutionary upsurge is being marked in every sector and unit of the national economy. Amidst these impressive circumstances, we significantly mark the 50th anniversary of the founding of the Peasants Union.

The founding of the Peasants Union by the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song 50 years ago was an historical event which marked an epochal turning point in the anti-Japanese struggle for national liberation and in the revolutionary movement of the peasants of our nation.

By wisely leading our party and people in victoriously implementing the antiimperialist, antifeudal and democratic revolutionary tasks, including land reform, the respected and beloved leader in a short period of time turned the northern half of the republic into a strong fortress for our revolution. The invincible vitality of the revolutionary base which the leader provided was fully demonstrated during the 3-year fatherland liberation war imposed on us by the U.S. imperialists and their stooges.

During those harsh days during which the fatherland and the revolution encountered severe trials, upholding the militant slogan "everything for victory in the war" put forward by great leader, the Peasants Union waged a persistent struggle to increase food production and support the frontline. Thus, the union made a great contribution to dealing a serious military and political defeat to the U.S. imperialist aggressors and to defending the liberty and independence of the fatherland.

Deeply inspired by the revolution in our rural areas and the revolutionary development, the great leader dissolved the North Korean Farmers' Union on 25 July 1965 and founded the Union of Agricultural Working People of Korea, a new socialist peasant organization.

Although our revolution has advanced far, our revolutionary cause has not yet been attained and we are still on the road of revolution. The national and class liberation of our peasants has been realized in only half the territory of the nation and the socialist and communist cause has not yet been attained. We must wage a more persistent struggle for the final victory of the Korean revolution.

By continuing the revolution in the rural areas, we must get rid of the gap between the urban and rural areas and the class disparity between the working class and the peasants, and attain the complete victory of socialism.

Upholding the "farming first" policy put forward by the great leader, the entire party, people and army must step forth to support the rural areas and carry out the party's five-point policy for nature remolding. In addition, we must completely finish the 200,000 chongbo dryfield irrigation project and thoroughly meet the demands of the chuche farming method in allfarming processes. In doing this we must attain the height of 8.8 million tons of grain this year and finally fly the victory banner on the height of 10 million tons of grain.

Thoroughly smashing the "two Koreas" scheme of the U.S. imperialists and the Pak Chong-hui puppet clique and attaining the independent reunification of the nation are the greatest national tasks facing our people and the working people of the rural areas. We must check and frustrate the criminal "two Koreas" scheme of the U.S. imperialists and the Pak Chong-hui puppet clique at every stage and attain the independent reunification of the fatherland at an early date. For these objectives, we must score a new revolutionary upsurge on all fronts of socialist construction and further consolidate the revolutionary base in the northern half of the republic politically, ideologically, economically and militarily.

The Korean peasant movement is a part of the revolutionary movement of the peasants of the world. Accordingly, strengthening solidarity with international revolutionary forces is one of the important factors in attaining the final victory of the Korean revolution. As we have in the past, holding high the revolutionary anti-U.S. banner and the banner of independence, we will firmly unite with the revolutionary peasants of the world who support independence and continue our persistent struggle against imperialism, colonialism and dominationism and for peace, democracy, national independence, socialism and victory in the communist cause.

Bright is the future of our people who are materializing the chuche revolutionary cause and the cause of socialism and communism under the wise leadership of the great leader. Only victory and glory await our people in the future. Let all of us firmly rally around the great leader of the revolution Comrade Kim Il-song, hold high the revolutionary banner of chuche and advance toward the accomplishment of the chuche revolutionary cause, toward the final solution of the rural question and toward the early attainment of the great goals of the second 7-year plan.

Long live the great leader of our party and people, Comrade Kim Il-song!

FOREIGN NEWS - MARKS 'HISTORIC' KIM IL-SONG MEETING

KRI004001 JUNE KCNA in English 0352 GMT 10 Mar 78 SK

[Text] Pyongyang, 10 March (KCNA)--The ministry of Foreign Affairs arranged a film show and cocktail party at the People's Palace of Culture on March 9 in honour of diplomatic envoys in our country and their wives on the occasion of the 45th anniversary of the historic Wangjaesan meeting called by the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song when he marched into the Onsong area. The attendants appreciated the Korean feature film "Invisible Fortress."

Comrade Ho Tam spoke at the cocktail party. He pointed out that the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song marched into the Onsong area by personally leading a unit of the Korean People's Revolutionary Army and called an historic Wangjaesan meeting of chiefs of underground revolutionary organisations and dispatched political workers in the Onsong area on March 11, 1933. The outstanding strategic and tactical policies put forward by the respected and beloved leader at the meeting were an undying torch which lit the bright future of the restoration of the fatherland to our people and kindled a fiercer flame of the Korean revolution, he stressed.

Polish Ambassador Tadeusz Bialkowski spoke next on behalf of the diplomatic envoys. He said that the Wangjaesan meeting marked an occasion for expanding the armed struggle to the homeland and developing it, leading the national liberation struggle of the Korean people to a great upsurge and establishing more thoroughly the unitary leadership of Comrade Kim Il-song over the Korean revolution as a whole.

The Wangjaesan meeting and the speech of Comrade Kim Il-song at the meeting brightly illumined to the Korean people the road of struggle and instilled in them a firm conviction of victory, he noted.

The attendants drank toasts to the friendship and solidarity between the Korean people and the peoples of the countries represented by the diplomatic envoys, to the good health and long life of the great leader of our people Comrade Kim Il-song and to the good health and long life of the heads of state of the countries represented by the diplomatic envoys.

Prior to the film show and cocktail party, the diplomatic envoys and their wives inspected the Korean Revolution Museum.

BRIEFS

LIBYAN CIVIL AVIATION DELEGATION--Pyongyang, 5 Mar--The government civil aviation delegation of the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya headed by Marui M. Abuzakuk, chief of the civil aviation department of Libya, left Pyongyang on 4 March by plane after a visit to our country. It was seen off at the airport by personage concerned Kim Yo-ung. During its stay in Korea, the delegation inspected revolutionary sites and educational and cultural institutions. [Excerpt] [Pyongyang KCNA in English 0807 GMT 5 Mar 78 OW]

ART TROUPE IN NEPAL--Pyongyang, 4 Mar--The Pyongyang art troupe of our country flew to Nepal after leaving Burma. Our artists gave their premier performance at the royal art theatre in Katmandu on 19 February. On 25 February the performance was appreciated by Kirti Nidhi Bista, prime minister of Nepal, and other dignitaries of the host country. [Pyongyang KCNA in English 1642 GMT 4 Mar 78 OW]

FOREIGN MINISTER PAK COMMENTS ON TALKS WITH VANCE

SK130129Y Seoul HAPTONG in English 0107 GMT 13 Mar 78 SK

[Excerpt] Seoul, 13 Mar (HAPTONG)--Foreign Minister Pak Tong-chin said last night he had confirmed Korea and the U.S. shared the view that both nations ought to restore their traditionally friendly ties by amicably settling the Pak Tong-son affair as quickly as possible. Talking to reporters upon his return here from a month-long trip to the U.S. and Europe, Pak also said the American security commitment to South Korea remained firm.

Asked to confirm the report that he and American State Secretary Cyrus Vance had discussed a formula enabling former Korean ambassador to Washington Kim Tong-cho to testify before the Congress on the alleged Korean payoff scandal in Washington without losing his diplomatic immunity, Foreign Minister Pak termed the report "groundless and distorted."

GOVERNMENT MOVE POSSIBLE IN BUDDHIST LEADERSHIP DISPUTE

SK110135Y Seoul HAPTONG in English 0122 GMT 11 Mar 78 SK

[Text] Seoul, 11 Mar (HAPTONG)--Chokaechong, Korea's largest Buddhist sect, has been split into two after a prolonged feud between intra-sect rival factions over hegemony, heightening chances for possible government intervention in religious affairs. Chonghoe, a group of dissident monks opposing the present leadership of Chokaechong, Friday, held a separate meeting and formed a new executive organ asserting leadership over Chokaechong.

The final break followed a series of prolonged feuds involving law suits by the dissident faction against the present leadership headed by chief monk Yi So-ong, aimed to put the stigma of illegitimacy on Yi's leadership. The Seoul appellate court upheld the dissident move last February, and thereupon the anti-Yi faction moved to take over Chokaechong to no avail.

The prolonged feuds among the monks of Buddhism, Korea's largest religion, have created wide repercussions in society and as a result, Buddhist monks have come under increasing public criticism for their unpriestly behavior. In the meantime, a large Buddhist laymen's association threatened to ask for government intervention for a settlement of the dispute if the monks themselves are unable to do so.

BRIEFS

SPEAKER'S FOREIGN TOUR--Seoul, 13 Mar--House speaker Chong Il-kwon left here today to pay an official visit to Nationalist China, Turkey, India and Thailand and to confer with their government and parliamentary leaders on matters of mutual concern. During his current trip, Chong is expected to brief the leaders of those countries on the Korean security situation in the context of the planned withdrawal of American troops from Korea, and seek their understanding and support. Chong is being accompanied by his wife, a bipartisan group of four lawmakers and his chief secretary. [Text] [Seoul HAPTONG in English 0113 GMT 13 Mar 78 SK]

LEADERS GREET CHINESE COUNTERPARTS ON ELECTIONS

Tsedenbal to Yeh Chien-ying

OW130556Y Ulaanbaatar MONTSAME in Russian 1846 GMT 11 Mar 78 OW

[Text] Ulaanbaatar, 11 Mar (MONTSAME)--Y. Tsedenbal, chairman of the MPR People's Great Hural Presidium, has sent a congratulatory telegram to Yeh Chien-ying in connection with his election as chairman of the Standing Committee of the NPC of the People's Republic of China.

Batmonh to Hua Kuo-feng

OW130558Y Ulaanbaatar MONTSAME in Russian 1847 GMT 11 Mar 78 OW

[Text] Ulaanbaatar, 11 Mar (MONTSAME)--J. Batmonh, chairman of the MPR Council of Ministers, has sent a congratulatory telegram to Hua Kuo-feng on the occasion of his appointment as premier of the PRC State Council.

SOVIET AMITY GROUP DEPARTS ULAANBAATAR FOR HOME

OW100548Y Ulaanbaatar MONTSAME in Russian 1844 GMT 9 Mar 78 OW

[Text] Ulaanbaatar, 9 Mar (MONTSAME)--Today's UNEN reports that the Soviet delegation headed by V. Khorokhordin, deputy chairman of the Presidium of the Union of Soviet Societies for Friendship and Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries, has left for home.

The delegation visited here at the invitation of the Executive Committee of the Federation of Mongolian Peace and Friendship Organizations and the Central Council of the Mongolian-Soviet Friendship Association, to sign a supplementary protocol on cooperation between the Federation of Mongolian Peace and Friendship Organizations and the Mongolian-Soviet Friendship Association and the Union of Soviet Societies for Friendship and Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries and the Soviet-Mongolian Friendship Society for the 1976-80 period.

BRIEFS

DPRK ENVOY--Ulaanbaatar, 1 Mar--In connection with the presentation of his credentials (Kim I-hun), ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the DPRK to the MPR, laid a wreath today at the tomb of D. Suhe Baatar and H. Choyabalsan, founders of the MPRP and the people's state. Mr. Peljee, deputy chairman of the MPR Council of Ministers, met here with (Kim I-hun), DPRK ambassador to the MPR, and had a friendly talk with him. [Ulaanbaatar MONTSAME in Russian 1824 GMT 1 Mar 78 OW]

DISARMAMENT DELEGATION RETURNS--Ulaanbaatar, 7 Mar--The Mongolian delegation headed by N. Lubsanchultem, chairman of the Executive Committee of the Federation of Mongolian Peace and Friendship Organizations, and member of the WPC presidium, returned home today after participating in the work of the international conference of nongovernmental organizations on disarmament in Geneva. [Text] [Ulaanbaatar MONTSAME in Russian 1831 GMT 7 Mar 78 OW]

CLASHES WITH SRV IN RATANAKIRI PROVINCE 9, 10 MARCH

BK120001Y Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 2330 GMT 11 Mar 78 BK

[Text] On 8 March a battalion of Vietnamese penetrated into our territory at a place north of Route 19 in Ratanakiri in an attempt to set up a position there. We destroyed a number of them, and the survivors fled in disorder across the border.

On 10 March the Vietnamese sent forces to enter Cambodia in two places:

1. More than a battalion entered north of Route 19.
2. One company entered south of Route 19.

We attacked, killed and wounded many of them, with the survivors fleeing back to their country in shame.

These acts are among various other types of encroachment, provocation and aggression the Vietnamese enemy has continued to commit every day against our border territory.

This clearly indicates that the Vietnamese have not abandoned their ambition to commit aggression against and to annex our territory, nor have they abandoned their Indochinese federation strategy to make Cambodia their satellite.

The sweet words the Vietnamese utter every day are but a deceitful attempt to fool Cambodian and world opinion, and conceal their aggressive strategic aims to swallow Cambodian territory. The Cambodian people are not so foolish as to allow the Vietnamese to annex territory and make Cambodia their satellite.

CONTINUING COVERAGE OF YUGOSLAV DELEGATION'S VISIT

New Titles for Yun Yat, Hu Nim Noted

BK110138Y Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 2300 GMT 10 Mar 78 BK

[Text] Comrade Yun Yat, minister of propaganda and education [ratmontrei krasuang kaosna oprom ning suksa] of the Government of Democratic Cambodia, met with the visiting Yugoslav press delegation led by Comrade (Nikola Vitorovic), Belgrade radio and television writer, at the Ministry of Propaganda and Education [krasuang kaosna oprom] at 0830 on 10 March. Attending this meeting were cadres from the Ministry of Propaganda and Education and Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Yugoslav Ambassador Comrade Mihailo Lompa also attended.

Comrade Minister Yun Yat warmly welcomed the Yugoslav press delegation paying its first visit to Cambodia since the country was liberated.

She expressed thanks to Comrade President Tito, the League of Communists of Yugoslavia and the Yugoslav Government and people for supporting the Cambodian people's liberation and in the current postliberation period of the Cambodian revolution.

Comrade Yun Yat also highly praised the Yugoslav press for reporting the facts about the Cambodian revolutionary struggle and the Cambodian people, and wished the Yugoslav delegation complete success in its visit. She expressed the belief that the Yugoslav delegation's visit will promote mutual understanding between our two peoples and contribute significantly to strengthening and expanding the friendship and solidarity between the two nations and peoples.

The Yugoslav delegation expressed joy at being able to pay its first visit to Cambodia since liberation and being able to broaden its knowledge about the Cambodian revolution, the Cambodian people and Democratic Cambodia. The delegation also thanked the Cambodian people and Government for helping it succeed in its mission.

Comrade Yun Yat presented the REVOLUTION newspaper, an illustrated magazine in Cambodia, and various other books published by the Ministry of Propaganda and Education to the delegation as souvenirs. The meeting proceeded in a joyful, intimate atmosphere permeated by the spirit of friendship and solidarity between the peoples of nonaligned Cambodia and Yugoslavia.

Takeo, Kompong Saom Toured

BK100424Y Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 2300 GMT 9 Mar 78 BK

[Text] Accompanied by cadres of the Foreign Ministry's Information and Propaganda Department, the Yugoslav press delegation headed by Belgrade radio and television writer (Nikola Vitorovic) visited the southwestern region and Kompong Saom sector from 6 to 9 March 1978.

On 6 March, on National Route 3 to Takeo the delegation made brief stops to visit the Prek Thnaot River dams at Kompong Kantuot and Slaku--achievements scored by our people and Revolutionary Army during the 2 years since liberation. These dams can irrigate more than 20,000 hectares. The Yugoslavs stopped at Ang Ta Saom township and took pictures of vestiges of the destruction caused by the U.S. imperialist war of aggression. They saw the many houses and buildings erected since liberation--testimony to the efforts of the KCP and Government of Democratic Cambodia to raise our masses' standard of living.

The delegation departed in the company of the comrade cadres responsible for the Takeo sector for a tour of Tonloap in the Kirivong area--15 km from the frontier, which was occupied by the expansionist, annexationist Vietnamese aggressors from 14 December 1977 to 3 January 1978.

The Yugoslav press representatives saw many things attesting to the aggression and crimes perpetrated by the Vietnamese: houses, orchards, schools, hospitals, factories, workshops and farmland were destroyed, and our people's products and property, such as rice and grain, machines and various other farm implements were ransacked and carted away by the Vietnamese. The guests also saw signs of aggression such as wrecked tanks, bomb and shell fragments and trenches.

The press delegation also witnessed the heroism of our male and female combatants in their drive to maximize production. These troops displayed both courage and vigilance in the counterattack for total mastery over the Vietnamese when they encroached upon our territory and perpetrated crimes against our people and combatants of both sexes.

The Yugoslav newsmen also learned about the deep penetration, acts of destruction and atrocities the Vietnamese committed and continue to commit against our people in the Kirivong sector, as in the rest of the frontier region. This clearly shows that the dispute between Cambodia and Vietnam is not a border dispute. It is a dispute between the principles of preserving independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity on the one hand and the policy of a large country wanting to enslave and annex a smaller one on the other.

The representatives of the Yugoslav press directly experienced new Vietnamese crimes as they fired artillery shells at peasants planting rice at Tonloap from 1100 to 1530.

At 1600 on 6 March the delegation continued their journey, visiting the dry season riceland at Kompong Ambel. Our people and Revolutionary Army there have built many irrigation projects on the Kompong Ambel River to provide water for more than 20,000 hectares of ricefields. The guests were greatly impressed by the efforts and progress of Cambodia in the field of agriculture, making it possible for us to completely transform the appearance of Takeo Province, once a poor, drought-stricken zone in the old society.

On 7 March 1978 the Yugoslavs left Takeo town for Kampot. En route the delegation visited the Leay Bo cooperative where they received a warm welcome from the chairman and members of the cooperative committee. After listening to a report on the history and development of the cooperative by the cooperative chairman, the delegation visited the communal kitchen, the farm tool workshop and the school and saw the cooperative's rice milling machine. The Yugoslavs followed closely and took pictures of all activities in each section of the cooperative. They praised highly the efforts, industriousness and creativity shown by the cooperative members as well as their collective spirit and self-reliance.

The delegation continued on Route 2 toward Kampot city with a stop at Kep township on the Cambodian coast. A responsible cadre of the Kampot sector welcomed the delegation and briefed it on the record of our people and Revolutionary Army in this area, which has successively seen aggression by enemies of all stripes, be they U.S. imperialists and the traitors of the past or the Vietnamese at present. The latter continue to send their espionage commandos to reconnoiter and encroach upon Cambodian waters on a regular basis and have not abandoned their ambition of annexing islands and swallowing Cambodia as a whole. Regarding their excessive greed, the Yugoslavs concluded that the Vietnamese are worse than the French colonialists--they are not satisfied with the portions of Cambodian territory the French gave them; they greedily long for more.

After noon the delegation visited state-owned saltfields where the comrade chairman of the salt production corps was waiting for them. The state-owned saltfields are an industrial pacesetter, exceeding the 1977 plan by 70 percent. The delegation expressed admiration at the courage and sense of duty displayed by the female troops in the salt production corps, now engaged in a vigorous drive to rapidly fulfill the 1978 plan. Following their visit to the salt production corps, the delegation continued on to Kampong Saom city along the Kampot-Kompong Saom road.

On the morning of 8 March 1978 the delegation visited the new and old ports in Kompong Saom city in the company of Comrade (Krin), chairman of the port committee [prathean ganakammathikar kampongphae].

The delegation praised the rapid development of the ports, which clearly attests to the ability of the Cambodian working class to administer and protect the ports under KCP leadership. The delegation then visited the maritime fishing port where it was welcomed by Comrade (Lonh), chairman of the Maritime Fishing Industry Committee [prathean ganakammakathikar vesat samot]. Accompanied by Comrade (Lonh) the delegation boarded a ship for a cruise along the coast. They were impressed by the rapid growth of the maritime fishing industry, which is a new factor in the economy of Cambodia. They were also deeply impressed by the lofty creativity, mastery, independence and self-reliance shown by the workers.

On the evening of 8 March Comrade (Krin) hosted a reception in honor of the delegation. Attending were Comrade (Lonh) and the Information and Propaganda Department cadres from the Foreign Ministry. The reception proceeded in a cordial atmosphere permeated with warm friendship. It is noteworthy that on that occasion one Vietnamese aircraft made a reconnaissance flight violating our airspace over Kompong Soam city. It was forced by the heavy fire of our artillery unit to immediately turn back to its own country.

On the morning of 9 March the Yugoslav delegation traveled by car back to Phnom Penh after successfully completing its visit to the southwestern region and Kompong Soam sector. Along National Route 4 the delegation visited another Prek Thnaot River dam at Kompong Tram and the ditch network which channels water from this dam to irrigate about 7,000 hectares of riceland. Like those at Kompong Kantuot and Slaku and other dams on Prek Thnaot River, the dam at Kompong Tram is a Cambodian achievement of the period following liberation. Together these dams can provide water for 60,000 hectares of ricefields. This is a result of the policy of mastery, independence and self-reliance and sense of ingenuity of our peasants under the leadership of the KCP.

10-11 March Activities

BK120306Y Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 2300 GMT 11 Mar 78 BK

[Text] After paying a courtesy call on Comrade Yun Yat, minister of propaganda and education, at 1030 on 10 March the Yugoslav press delegation, accompanied by Information and Propaganda Department cadres of the Foreign Ministry, went on a boat trip to visit the Tonle Buan Muk River and the upper and lower banks of the Mekong River. Comrade Mihailo Lompa, Yugoslav ambassador, also accompanied the delegation.

At 1500 the same day the delegation visited the former General Staff headquarters of Lon Nol. They were welcomed there by cadres of the General Staff of the Cambodian Revolutionary Army. A representative of the Cambodian Revolutionary Army explained to the guests the events that took place from the offensive phase of 1 January 1975 to 17 April 1975, when Cambodia was definitely liberated. After the explanation and some questions and answers the delegation visited various sections of the headquarters. Ambassador Lompa and his wife also took part in this visit.

The delegation visited the D-6 and D-7 foundries where farm tools such as water pumps, saws and rice threshers are produced. They were impressed by the industriousness and ingenuity of our young revolutionary workers, who constantly adhere to the policy of independence, sovereignty and self-reliance under KCP leadership.

On the night of 10 March the delegation viewed the film [words indistinct] at the Friendship Theater. The delegation was accompanied by Information and Propaganda Department cadres of the Foreign Ministry. Ambassador Lompa and his wife, as well as all the staff members of the Yugoslav Embassy also attended the show.

On the morning of 11 March, accompanied by Information and Propaganda Department cadres of the Foreign Ministry, the Yugoslav press delegation left Phnom Penh by car to visit various sectors around the Tonle Sap lake. The SFRY ambassador also went with the delegation.

TANJUG Report on Tour

LD101346Y Belgrade TANJUG in English 1100 GMT 10 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Phnom Penh, 10 Mar (special from TANJUG correspondent Slavko Stanic)--The two fundamental elements--wish for peace and good relations with everybody in international affairs, and self-reliance in the matter of internal development--are emphasized in Kampuchea's official circles in terms of the projection of development for this country.

We have chosen to construct our society in harmony with the aspirations of our revolution and path to socialism we chose for ourselves. Despite our hard and dramatic national history, we would not like to reopen old sores since we need peace for reconstruction and construction, the same circles say.

These circles set forth the above stand in talks with a group of Yugoslav journalists on a visit to Kampuchea now. In order to show reasons for this choice to this effect, the Kampuchean hosts prepared a tour for their guests of some provinces in the interior so as to acquaint them with the life of local population.

The Foreign Ministry of Democratic Kampuchea organized the visiting Yugoslav journalists' tour, voicing the hope that they will be in a position on the spot to see for themselves the efforts being exerted by the Kampucheans in order to rebuild as soon as possible the communications, irrigation systems and other economic facilities destroyed during the five-year liberation war.

In all of this, self-reliance and collective work in communes as the main school for training revolutionary cadres are put in the foreground.

The whole of Kampuchea's social and economic activity develops in the communes, i.e. in the countryside and cooperatives. The towns having almost emptied. For illustration's sake, Phnom Penh had half a million inhabitants when the war broke out, swelled up to about 2 million during the war, but is an almost empty city now. In addition to the state and political apparatus personnel, security forces, workers at repaired workshops and small factories, to be found in it at present are hospital personnel, children's nurseries and schools, and workers in charge of communal infrastructure and garbage-collectors.

Although no official data about the total of Phnom Penh inhabitants are available, it may be assumed--without running any greater risk--that the capital of Kampuchea has no more than 20,000 inhabitants now. For the time being, Phnom Penh has no communications, nor postal, telegraph and telephone lines with the rest of the world, except an air-line to Peking.

Correction to 4 Mar Banquet Remarks

The item subtitled "Banquet Remarks on SRV Talks", published under the main title "Further Reportage on Yugoslav Press Delegation Visit" on page H 1 of the 7 March DAILY REPORT, should be corrected as follows:

In the last paragraph, second line, insert the word "not" before "a normal", thus rendering the phrase "...it is not a normal [thomada] border conflict."

POL POT SENDS GREETINGS TO MAURITIAN PRIME MINISTER

BK120312Y Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 2300 GMT 11 Mar 78 BK

[Prime Minister Pol Pot's 12 March message to Prime Minister Seewoosagar Ramgoolam, greeting Mauritian National Day]

[Text] To His Excellency Seewoosagar Ramgoolam, prime minister of Mauritius, Port Quis: On the occasion of the 10th anniversary of the independence of Mauritius, on behalf of the people and Government of Democratic Cambodia we are delighted to extend warm congratulations to Your Excellency and the government and people of friendly Mauritius.

We wish Your Excellency the best of health and success in carrying out your lofty mission and wish the government and people of Mauritius success in defending their national independence and building their country. May the friendly relations between our two countries develop further in the interest of our two peoples and our great nonaligned family.

With highest regards.

Phnom Penh, 12 March 1978

[Signed] Pol Pot, prime minister of the Government of Democratic Cambodia

ROLE OF 'MOBILE YOUTH UNITS' IN BORDER AREAS HAILED

BK111245Y Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 2300 GMT 10 Mar 78 BK

[Station commentary: "Heroism Shown by Male and Female Mobile Youth in the Border Area"]

[Text] Most of our people in the border area are poor people who greatly love the nation and land and resolutely struggle against enemy aggressors of all stripes.

Because their fathers and mothers have such a class nature, such a love for nation and land and such a stand of resolute struggle against all enemy aggressors, their sons and daughters also have this nature. In fact, our Cambodian male and female youth living in the border area love nation and land and stand firmly against all enemy aggressors.

Our poor people and male and female youth in the border area used to be victims of oppression and persecution by the traitorous clique, feudalists, capitalists and oppressor classes of all stripes, like their counterparts in other areas throughout the country. However, these people in the border areas suffered more than poor people in other areas because they were always the victims of aggression by outside imperialists and expansionists--by U.S. imperialists in the past and currently by expansionist, annexationist Vietnamese aggressors.

The aggressive strafing, shelling, plundering and destruction perpetrated by the expansionist, annexationist Vietnamese against our people in the border area are like a chronic disease constantly threatening them.

Our border territory has been scorched and our people's lives made harder and harder. Being oppressed, plundered and massacred from generation to generation, our youth in the border area have constantly nursed great national hatred and class indignation.

During the war of aggression which lasted for over 5 years, under the correct and wise leadership of our KCP these seething flames of indignation were fanned into a strong combat drive against the U.S. imperialists, the expansionist, annexationist aggressor Thieu-Ky puppet clique and the Lon Nol traitorous clique, and contributed to the total and definitive liberation of the Cambodian fatherland, the Cambodian nation and people and the poor classes on the great victory day of April 1975.

After passing through successive revolutionary movements, and with the party's constant care and training, our youth in the border area have nurtured still fiercer flames of class indignation. They have taken a more resolute, fighting stand. This stand has changed everything in the border area, which used to be scorched and parched. In fact, since 17 April 1975 our youth of the mobile production corps have turned the border area of our fatherland into new farmland with field embankment systems, dams, ditches, canals, reservoirs, healthy rice crops, ripening crops of all types in all seasons and fine cooperative houses giving warmth and happiness to our collective people.

All villages and communes near the border have been turned into economic zones and, particularly, have become the outermost defense lines of our Democratic Cambodia.

However, while our Democratic Cambodia is developing and progressing independently, the Vietnamese, who have long nursed a strategic desire to include our Democratic Cambodia in a Vietnam-controlled Indochinese federation so they can easily swallow up our entire Cambodian nation, people and territory, are unhappy. In fact, they are furious. As soon as the war of aggression by the U.S. imperialists ended both in Cambodia and in Vietnam, the Vietnamese aggressors used all means and dark maneuvers to try to destroy and undermine the Cambodian revolution and people in an attempt to topple the KCP and Democratic Cambodia.

However, the various criminal acts they launched against our Cambodian people, revolutionary army, the KCP and our territory in an attempt to swallow Cambodia in accordance with their Indochinese federation strategy were successively smashed, defeated by our people and revolutionary army under our party's correct and wise leadership.

This is why at the beginning of September 1977 the Vietnamese, wearing the cloaks of communism and socialist revolutionaries, sent many of their armed divisions supported by artillery, hundreds of tanks and aircraft to launch large-scale open aggression in the form of an undeclared war against our territory in an attempt to plunder our people's rice and livestock to alleviate the famine in their country and in line with the strategic aim of swallowing Cambodia within a day.

During this cruel invasion into Cambodian territory, the Vietnamese aggressors butchered all, killed all, burned all and destroyed all lives and property they set eye on.

They looted rice in the granaries and in the field, burned the houses of our cooperative people to ashes, cut down our people's crops and even destroyed the irrigation networks our cooperative people built with their sweat and blood. Worse still, the captured, took liberties with, tortured and killed our female mobile youth. In short, they plundered and destroyed everything that our mobile youth and people in the border area had built and produced with their own sweat and blood.

Faced with such cruel acts of aggression, looting and massacre by the expansionist, our youth in the border area, like our people throughout the country, are filled with indignation. They are determined to unite closely with our revolutionary army and continue to make every sacrifice to smash the expansionist, annexationist Vietnamese aggressors and all their dark and criminal acts and safeguard our territory, villages, houses, ricefields and crops, as well as to contribute to defending Democratic Cambodia, national independence, sovereignty and honor.

In fact, they have struggled valiantly, arduously and resolutely to safeguard and store the rice yield at the forefront. For example, our male and female mobile youth harvest and store the rice yield wherever our valiant revolutionary army combatants go to drive out the enemy and liberate our villages and districts. After transporting the rice to the rear, they always bring food and ammunition back with them for our revolutionary army.

Trenches from which our revolutionary army combatants fired at the enemy when engaged in fighting have now become self-defense trenches for our youth in their struggle to gather rice. The noise of artillery and small arms fire from our revolutionary army combatants and the noise of sickles and threshers from our mobile production corps resound day and night.

Naturally there is some danger and sacrifice in reaping and storing rice near such hot fronts. Thus, our brothers and sisters must do their best to collect rice quickly in order to prevent the enemy from looting or destroying the crop.

In fact, in harvesting, threshing and transporting rice, the brothers and sisters have organized their forces into groups of 7, 8 and 10 persons so they can effectively escape shelling by the enemy. They have also implemented the party line of guerrilla warfare in carrying out their work on the combat front. The youth of our mobile production corps all agree that they must completely and thoroughly collect and safeguard rice left behind by enemy looting and destruction because it is the fruit of the sweat and blood of their parents. It will serve as capital for improving our people's living conditions and for building and making our fatherland prosper rapidly. We must make all sorts of sacrifice and implement every measure in order to contribute to smashing and driving out the expansionist, annexationist aggressor Vietnamese from our soil.

This is because if we are enslaved by the Vietnamese, our nation and territory will be swallowed up and we will fall into a living hell and die in ignominy.

Our forefathers and our parents, as we ourselves, struggled and made all sorts of sacrifices to liberate our nation and people from U.S. imperialist subjugation, not to become slaves of the Vietnamese.

Clearly perceiving the problems facing our nation and people, particularly the choice between independence and slavery, our youth are striving to harvest and store rice in areas adjacent to the front with a lofty sense of responsibility and unconditional sacrifice, daring to sacrifice everything--their physical and moral strength and even their lives. This shows the heroism of these youths in the border area recently displayed through their actual offensive movements on the combat front and in the current struggle to build dams, reservoirs, canals, ditches and field embankment networks so as to gain fuller control over water supply.

This also indicates that our male and female youths--sons and daughters of our poor people--under the correct and wise leadership of the KCP are most loyal to the party, nation, people, poor classes and the collective system and will unconditionally serve the party's collective system for life. They dare to make all sorts of sacrifice to defend national independence, sovereignty, territorial integrity and honor and the banners of independence and self-reliance of our nation and people.

Having such heroic Cambodian sons and daughters, Cambodia will never be smashed or swallowed up by any enemy, near or far, big or small, particularly the expansionist, annexationist aggressor Vietnamese and their partisans, who are launching various criminal acts and carrying out all sorts of harmful maneuvers in an attempt to swallow up our Democratic Cambodia. In the future, all these sons and daughters will continue to defend the country and carry on the socialist revolution and socialist construction in all fields in our Democratic Cambodia. They will definitely achieve brilliant success.

BRIEFS

NEW PHNOM PENH FACTORIES--Workers have been building three more factories in Phnom Penh: a blanket factory at Stoeng Meanchey, a nut and bolt factory at Russei Kev and an acid distillery at Kilo Lek Dap. Main emphasis has been given to the construction of the Stoeng Meanchey blanket factory started in September 1977. There are altogether five buildings in this factory, two for weaving equipment and three for cotton dyeing, a warehouse and a repair shop. Thanks to their hard work and ingenuity, our revolutionary workers completed the construction of one building by the end of February. Construction of the four others is underway. [Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 2300 GMT 8 Mar 78 BK]

EASTERN DRY SEASON RICE--Cooperative peasants in O Reang Euv district, Tonle Toch sector, eastern region have pledged to maximize rice production. Some peasants in the district are now engaged in a drive to build more water conservation projects, and others are growing a dry season rice crop in areas below the Chan Andet and (Bos Ko) reservoirs. Another group of cooperative peasants is also striving to grow a dry season rice crop in areas near the Tuol Ta Loap and (Boeng Ta Set) water pumping stations. [Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 2300 GMT 6 Mar 78 BK]

THAI RIVERINE FORCES' 19 FEBRUARY SHELLING INCIDENT REPORTED

BK130520Y Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 0400 GMT 13 Mar 78 BK

[Text] At 0600 on 19 February, Thai reactionaries, together with exiled Lao reactionaries in Thailand, crossed the Mekong River at Ban Pount village, Ngeo canton, Thakhek district, Khammouane Province, where they created unrest among our people and sabotaged peace and public order. At the same time, three boats of their Mekong River Operations Unit shelled the Lao side thus causing heavy losses to our people's houses.

This was not the first time since the establishment of the popular democratic republic system in Laos that the Thai reactionaries have conducted provocative acts and committed crimes against our people along the border. These represent hostile acts against our LPDR and viciously trample on the independence of a sovereign country.

NEW CONTRACT SIGNED BETWEEN SAVANNAKHET, SRV'S BINH TRI THIEN

BK010142Y Vientiane KPL in English 1003 GMT 10 Mar 78 BK

[Text] Vientiane, 10 Mar (KPL)--A trade contract for 1978 between Laos' Savannakhet Province and Vietnam's Binh Tri Thien Province was signed recently in Hue, capital of Binh Tri Thien. Under the contract, four times more commodities will be exchanged this year between the two provinces compared with last year.

The signatories, Chanbon, head of Savannakhet's trade delegation, and Phan Dinh Chi, member of Binh Tri Thien's people's committee and director of the province's trade service, warmly praised the friendship and militant solidarity between the peoples of Laos and Vietnam and of the two provinces in particular.

PHOUMI VONGVICHIT RECEIVES SRV EDUCATION OFFICIAL

BK101136Y Vientiane KPL in English 0959 GMT 10 Mar 78 BK

[Text] Vientiane, 10 Mar (KPL)--Phoumi Vongvichit, member of the Political Bureau of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party Central Committee, vice premier and minister of education, sports and religious affairs, yesterday received Ho Truc, vice minister of education and deputy head of Vietnam's economic, cultural, scientific and technical delegation, on a visit to Laos. Vietnamese ambassador to Laos Dinh Nho Liem attended the reception. Vice Premier Phoumi Vongvichit had a very cordial talk with Vice Minister Ho Truc.

SRV ECONOMIC DELEGATION VISITS CHAMPASSAK PROVINCE

BK110926Y Vientiane KPL in English 0909 GMT 11 Mar 78 BK

[Text] Vientiane, 11 Mar (KPL)--A delegation of the Vietnamese subcommission for economic, cultural, scientific and technical cooperation led by Dang Thi, minister at the premier's office and chairman of the said subcommission, left Vientiane yesterday morning for a visit to Champassak Province (Southern Laos).

It was accompanied by Visian Bounhaksa, vice minister of education, sports and religious affairs and vice chairman of the Lao subcommission of the said commission, and other officials of the subcommission.

KAYSONE PHOMVIHAN MESSAGE MOURNS GDR'S LAMBERZ, MARKOWSKI

EK110924Y Vientiane KPL in English 0906 GMT 11 Mar 78 BK

[Text] Vientiane, 11 Mar (KPL)--Kaysone Phomvihan, general secretary of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party, has sent the following message of condolence to Erich Honecker, general secretary of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany (SED):

I am deeply moved upon learning that Comrade Werner Lamberz, Political Bureau member of the Central Committee of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany, and secretary of the SED CC, and Comrade Paul Markowski, member of the party's Central Committee and head of the party's Central Commission for External Relations, have lost their lives in a plane crash.

With the death of Comrades Werner Lamberz and Paul Markowski, the fraternal SED has lost two beloved leaders who had devoted their whole lives to the revolutionary cause and socialist construction in the fraternal German Democratic Republic, and the Lao People's Revolutionary Party as well as the Lao people have lost two beloved comrades and friends.

On behalf of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party and the Lao people, I express our most profound sorrow to you, and through you, to the fraternal SED and Comrades Werner Lamberz' and Paul Markowski's families.

Leaders Pay Respects

EK101138Y Vientiane KPL in English 1005 GMT 10 Mar 78 BK

[Text] Vientiane, 10 Mar (KPL)--A Lao party and state delegation yesterday went to the German Democratic Republic Embassy in Vientiane to pay homage to Werner Lamberz, Political Bureau member of the Central Committee of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany (SED) and secretary of the SED CC, and Paul Markowski, member of the party's Central Committee and head of the party's Central Commission for Foreign Relations, who had passed away in a plane crash.

The delegation included Phoumi Vongvichit, member of the Political Bureau of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party Central Committee, vice premier and minister of education, sports and religious affairs; Phoun Sipaseut, Political Bureau member of the party's Central Committee, vice premier and foreign minister; Faidang Lobaliayao, vice president of the Lao Supreme People's Council; Sali Vongkhamsao, secretary of the party's Central Committee and minister at the premier's office; Souk Vongsak, member of the party's Central Committee and minister of public health; and Sisana Sisan, alternate member of the party's Central Committee and minister of information, propaganda, culture and tourism.

GDR Ambassador Dieter Jarck and his staff members received the delegation. Vice Premier Phoumi Vongvichit and other Lao leaders paid their last tribute to Werner Lamberz and Paul Markowski and signed the mourning book. Later in the day, Khamphai Boupha, vice minister for foreign affairs, and other senior Lao officials paid homage to Werner Lamberz and Paul Markowski at the GDR Embassy.

BRIEFS

GDR TRADE UNION GIFTS--Vientiane, 9 Mar--The Central Committee of the Lao Federation of Trade Unions [LFTU] on 7 March held a ceremony to receive gifts from the Confederation of Free German Trade Unions. Gerhard Reuter, first secretary of the German Democratic Republic Embassy in Laos, handed the gifts over to Sisavang Chanthepha, member of the Central Committee of the LFTU. The consignment consisted of books, slide lantern projectors, and film-dubbing machines. [Text] [Vientiane KPL in English 1018 GMT 9 Mar 78 BK]

'KHMER ROUGE' SHELL THAI VILLAGE 12 MARCH

BK130129Y Bangkok POST in English 13 Mar 78 p 3 BK

[Text] Ta Phraya--Thirteen villagers were wounded, some of them seriously, after Khmer Rouge gunners bombarded the Thai border village of Non Mak Mun in tambon Khok Sung with over a hundred rounds of mortar fire yesterday.

Military sources said the indiscriminate shelling of the village was in retaliation for the bombardment of suspected Khmer Rouge positions along the border by a Thai OV-10 counter-insurgency plane last Friday. The aircraft made several bombing raids and strafed suspected Khmer Rouge hideouts after a truck hit a landmine presumably planted by Khmer Rouge soldiers in this district last Friday, killing two Thai and seriously wounding another two.

Military sources said that the shelling of Ban Non Mak Mun began at about 10:30 a.m. yesterday and continues through the afternoon with nearly a hundred rounds of 60mm and 82mm mortar being lobbed into the village. Thirteen villagers were wounded and many houses were also damaged.

Two armoured cars led by Pol Capt Seksan Unsamran rushed to the village shortly after the first mortar shelling to prevent Khmer Rouge soldiers from sneaking into the village while an air force "Spooky" gave air cover.

VOPT: KRIANGSAK USES KHMER SEREI IN BORDER INCIDENTS

BK111600Y Voice of the People of Thailand [Clandestine] in Thai to Thailand 1000 GMT 11 Mar 78 BK

[Text] The public is becoming increasingly aware of the continued collusion between the Internal Security Operations Command [ISOC] and the CIA in employing Khmer Serei to create confusion along the Cambodian border, killing the Thai living along that border. Therefore, warlord Kriangsak has lately had to make even greater efforts at concealment. He dares not blame the Cambodian government for what is happening on the border because such charges no longer deceive anyone. Instead, he has accused the People's Armed Forces of perpetrating the border incident.

Warlord Kriangsak has had to admit the presence of Khmer Serei members on Thai soil, saying that certain groups have been selfishly employing expatriate Cambodians to carry out missions inside Cambodia. He said that there was not enough evidence to prosecute these Cambodians and their masters. Warlord Kriangsak is trying to cover a dead elephant with a leaf. One need not look into the past, but only to a recent, well publicized incident to understand what is going on.

On 20 December 1977 about 30 Khmer Serei--including 4 who disguised themselves as monks--armed with M-16s, carbines, AK-47s, handgrenades, much ammunition and food to sustain them for months, departed from their hideout at the Chittaphawan monks college in Bang Lamung district, Chon Buri for Aranyaprathet district, Prachin Buri Province on the Cambodian border. Due to bad coordination among government authorities they were searched by border patrol police at Ban Khlong Hat on the Watthana Nakon-Aranyaprathet Highway. Since reporters coincidentally were present at the site, the Khmer Serei had to be taken to the Joint Eastern Command at Aranyaprathet in an effort to hush up the incident.

On 21 December an ISOC colonel arrived at Watthana Nakhon Airfield at about 0900 and went directly to the Joint Eastern Command to confirm that those who had been searched and detained were Khmer Serei on an ISOC mission. The colonel also forced reporters to give him films taken of the Khmer Serei, and instructed them not to disclose what they had seen. When told by the reporters that they had already reported to their offices, the colonel asked how the Khmer Serei had been identified. A reporter replied that he initially thought they were communist insurgents and reported them as such, but that he now knew they were not. The colonel, feeling relieved, said that everything was all right--but then he threatened the reporters, saying that for the sake of the country they must not disclose what they had seen.

The next day, 22 December, the Khmer Serei were given back their weapons and supplies and disappeared. The vehicle which transported them reappeared at the monks college in Chon Buri where all entrances were being carefully guarded to prevent security leaks.

People can clearly see what warlord Kriangsak is trying to conceal. It is like a thief hollering "catch the thief", a ploy which his clique has always used.

LAO-SRV OPERATIONS DRIVE MEOS INTO THAILAND

BK120150Y Bangkok POST in English 12 Mar 78 p 1 BK

[Text] Hundreds of Meo fighters have fled their Phou Hinbia homeland in Laos' Xieng Khouang Province across the Mekong to take refuge in Thailand in the wake of heavy attacks by joint Lao-Vietnamese operations, official sources said yesterday. The Phou Hinbia Mountain Range was the last stronghold of Meo troopers who, under Gen Vang Pao, had fought many bitter battles against Pathet Lao forces before the country came under complete communist control. Gen Vang Pao is now taking refuge in the United States.

The sources said six divisions of combined Lao and Vietnamese forces are carrying out massive operations to uproot the remnants of Gen Van Pao's forces in Muong Ong and Muong Namfeng in Phou Hinbia. The Lao and Vietnamese troopers, backed by artillery shellings and air bombardments, have killed over 1,000 Meos since the attacks began early last month, the sources said.

The Meo fighters reportedly shot down a L-19 plane and crippled five tanks, two of which were equipped with 130mm artillery, before crossing the river. The fleeing fighters, the sources said, are flooding refugee camps in Nong Khai Province in the wake of the massive attacks. The last group to have arrived here includes about 200 people, many of them children and women. It is expected that hundreds more fighters will show up in this northeastern province soon. At the time of this report, the massive operations are still going on.

More Meo Flee

BK130914Y Bangkok WORLD in English 13 Mar 78 p 1 BK

[Text] In another mass escape from Laos after their mountain stronghold in Xieng Khouang fell to combined Pathet Lao and Vietnamese forces, a group of 30 Meo hilltribes rebels landed in Phon Phisai district of Nong Khai yesterday. The "heavily armed" refugees told border authorities on surrender that several hundred more of their colleagues were still hiding in jungles opposite the Thai riverbank awaiting the chance to flee across the Mekong to the Thai side.

An official report said this latest group of fighters of General Vang Pao, mostly teenagers, landed at Ban Nakang, Ban Tha Kling, and Ban Nong Bua villages of Tambon Phakkat around 7 A.M. in four wooden boats. Their sudden arrival alerted Ban Nakang border checkpoint officer Sgt Suchai Sonphim who later radioed Phon Phisai district police chief Lt-Col Rungsak Khlongsangson for reinforcements to intercept the armed refugees.

The young Meo fighters, in black shorts and jungle greens, surrendered themselves to the lieutenant colonel who intercepted them as they landed. All were later herded in three trucks and taken to Phon Phisai police station for questioning and fingerprinting. About 50 M-16, AK-47, and carbine rifles were taken from them on the way.

Meo leader Captain Ngia Keyang told authorities he and his men fled from Muong O when it fell to Pathet Lao and Vietnamese forces early this month. The captain recalled the battle as furious. "The Pathet Lao and Vietnamese used MIG fighter bombers raining napalm, artillery, and poisonous gas against us." He said thousands of Meos were killed because of the bombs and gas. "All wells were poisoned and many of our fighters died because of the poisoned water".

He said that about 7,000 Meos fled Muong O and were at present hiding somewhere in the jungles of Ban Namsai, Ban Thong Kaen of Bolihan, opposite Phon Phisai district, awaiting safe passage to escape to the Thai side. He added, Colonel So Yung, seventh brother of General Vang Pao, was commanding some 80,000 Meo fighters in Xieng Khouang. Colonel So Yung was his supreme commander in Xieng Khouang, and "he was still there though the town has fallen to Pathet Laos," he said.

Meanwhile Lt Col Rungsak told the WORLD he will today negotiate with Pathet Lao troops stationed at Don Khon Rat Island in the middle of the Mekong River not to fire across the river during refugee escapes. He said the shots always hit on the Thai side. There is about a division of Pathet Lao soldiers stationed at Don Khon Rat.

An official report said Meo hilltribesmen who fled here last week have all been sent to Karunyathep camp of the Internal Security Operations Command for detention.

UPPADIT ON NOUPHAN SITPHASAI TALKS, KRIANGSAK PRC VISIT DATE

BK101528Y Bangkok Domestic Service in Thai 1300 GMT 10 Mar 78 BK

[Foreign Minister Uppadit Pachariyangkun's 10 March press interview--recorded]

[Text] [Uppadit] We told Laos we were willing to assist with transit goods, and that is what we have been doing. We said that we were ready to listen to complaints about inconveniences or difficulties if there are any, and Laos was happy with our explanation.

[Question] During your meeting with Noupnan Sitphasai yesterday, did he tell you what goods Laos needs from us?

[Answer] These details will be discussed by the trade missions of both countries.

[Question] Did he mention our Mekong River Operations Unit? Laos had expressed suspicions about this unit.

[Answer] I told you that we agreed to try to find ways to prevent future misunderstandings.

[Question] I assume the Chinese charge d'affaires met with you about the prime minister's coming visit to the PRC?

[Answer] Yes, we discussed details of the trip--his flight and itinerary, for example.

[Question] Did China agree to our proposed date?

[Answer] Yes, China has no objection to our proposal. It will be as the prime minister himself earlier announced: The visit will take place on 29 March. That is positive.

WONG SEES IMPROVED RELATIONS, TRADE WITH LAOS

BK110956Y Bangkok Domestic Service in Thai 1300 GMT 10 Mar 78 BK

[Recorded press interview with Deputy Foreign Minister Wong Phonninon--date not given]

[Text] [Wong] Thai-Lao relations are steadily improving. As for border incidents, it is common for incidents to occur between countries sharing a border. The important thing is to handle the incidents in such a manner as to prevent them from escalating into something more serious. The press plays a very important role in this matter. There have been times when small incidents were reported in a way that caused misunderstanding.

[Question indistinct]

[Answer] I don't know. As far as I am concerned, when I was in Laos I had cordial talks with Lao officials. We understood each other well. They want our help in trade and such. We will also benefit from trade with them.

[Question] What commodities does Laos want from us?

[Answer] Laos has repeatedly stated that it looks forward to our assistance. Both Thailand and Laos will benefit from this trade. Our forests are virtually nonexistent now. We can buy timber from Laos, and this will benefit us.

KRIANGSAK MEETS JAPANESE VICE FOREIGN MINISTER 9 MARCH

BK101037Y Bangkok Domestic Service in Thai 1300 GMT 9 Mar 78 BK

[Text] At 1620 today Japanese Ambassador to Thailand Hiroshi Hitomi escorted Japanese Vice Foreign Minister (Koichiro Ino) and party to pay a courtesy call on Prime Minister Gen Kriangsak Chamanan at Government House. The Japanese vice foreign minister is here to attend the ESCAP meeting.

The prime minister and his visitors discussed economic and trade cooperation between Thailand and Japan. The Japanese vice foreign minister expressed his desire to extend technical cooperation and double the value of loans to Thailand within the next 5 years. A Thai-Japanese cooperation agreement will be signed in the near future.

The Indochinese situation was also discussed. The visitors expressed satisfaction that Thailand has been able to improve relations with Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia in relatively short time. The prime minister said that the goals for relations between Thailand and Laos and Vietnam will probably be reached soon, but relations between Thailand and Cambodia may take longer to materialize. However, Thailand will continue its efforts without anticipating undue difficulty.

The prime minister extended an invitation to the Japanese prime minister and foreign minister to make another visit to Thailand. Secretary to the prime minister, Gen Phon Thanaphum, was also present during the meeting.

THAI-MALAYSIAN MILITARY EXERCISE OPENS IN SONGKHLA

BK101516Y Bangkok Domestic Service in Thai 1300 GMT 10 Mar 78 BK

[Text] Defense Minister Gen Lek Naeonali and Malaysian Home Affairs Minister Tan Sri Mohamed Ghazali Shafie left together at 1000 today for Songkhla Province to preside over the opening of the joint Thai-Malaysian military exercise at Ban Khok Wiang, tambon Khlong Hoi Khong, Hat Yai district. This is the first field exercise between Thailand and Malaysia aimed at testing the Thai-Malaysian Regional Border Committee's routine operation, organization and methods of communication, as well as strengthening understanding and improving coordination of combined operations of the forces of the two countries. The joint exercise is also intended to improve the operational tactics of the combined Thai-Malaysian Task Force Command.

After the opening ceremony the defense minister and the Malaysian home affairs minister held a joint press conference. They noted that Thai troops from the 5th Regiment combat team at Senanarong camp and Malaysian troops of the 6th Brigade are taking part in the exercise which will be launched in Betong and Sadao districts with air and ground support and will continue until 15 March.

VOPT Scores Joint Exercise

BK111042Y Voice of the People of Thailand [Clandestine] in Thai to Thailand 1000 GMT 10 Mar 78 BK

[Text] The Kriangsak government has announced that it will conduct a joint military exercise with the reactionary Hussein bin Onn government at tambon Khlong Hoi Khong in Hat Yai district of Songkhla Province from 10 to 15 March. The joint exercise, it said, is aimed at improving understanding and coordination between the two governments. The real intention of the Kriangsak and Hussein bin Onn governments in conducting this exercise is to launch a suppression operation against the people in the south. Moreover, they have imposed a curfew in the area where the operation will be carried out.

The suppression of southern Thailand has always been strongly denounced and opposed by the general public because it tramples on national sovereignty and causes hardships to the people. The Kriangsak and Hussein bin Onn governments are using this military exercise as a pretext for sending Malaysian troops to further suppress and kill the people of that part of Thailand. The use of Malaysian troops in this joint exercise on Thai territory to suppress the Thai is tantamount to arrogantly trampling on national sovereignty and will be resolutely opposed and resisted by the Thai people.

USSR'S FIRYUBIN ARRIVES IN BANGKOK 11 MARCH

BK120138Y Bangkok POST in English 12 Mar 78 p 1 BK

[Text] The Soviet Union's deputy foreign minister, Nikolay P. Firiyubin, arrived here yesterday afternoon from Singapore on a private visit to Thailand. He was accompanied by Deputy Chief of Southeast Asia Department of the Foreign Ministry Yuriy Kuznetsov and Assistant to Deputy Foreign Minister Anatoly M. Dryukov. Despite the private nature of his visit, he was welcomed at the airport by Mr Chaloe Achari, chief of Europe division of the Political Department of the Foreign Ministry. Mr Firiyubin told reporters that he will meet with Thai leaders and exchange viewpoints on matters of mutual interest. He will pay a courtesy call on Foreign Minister Dr Uppadit Pachariyangkun tomorrow noon and will attend a luncheon hosted by Dr Uppadit at the Foreign Ministry.

LOCAL FORCES IN TAY NINH COMBAT CAMBODIANS, REACTIONARIES

BK101433Y Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 0900 GMT 10 Mar 78 BK

[QUAN DOI NHAN DAN article by (Nguyen Phuc Am): "Armed Forces of Chau Thanh District, Tay Ninh, Actively Carry Out Construction While Valiantly Fighting"--date not given]

[Excerpt] In maintaining political security and social order, the district armed forces, aided by the public security forces and the people, have smashed 8 reactionary organizations, persuaded 220 reactionaries to give themselves up, arrested 36 persons having connections with reactionaries abroad, sent 190 others with bad records to reeducation camps and seized many weapons and documents.

Since the Cambodian armed forces started hostilities and encroached on our fatherland's territory, the people and armed forces of Chau Thanh district have confronted new challenges. The local soldiers and guerrillas have always held fast to their positions to defend their villages and hamlets. A guerrilla squad of Dinh Dien village held off an enemy battalion to protect the people's safety in the Ben Soi area. Hoa Thanh village was able to save 2,000 gia [40,000 kg] of paddy also thanks to the local guerrillas, who intercepted and attacked the enemy.

A militiaman and his son in Cay Oi hamlet valiantly fought an enemy company and held it at bay for a day and a night, preventing it from entering their hamlet. Phuoc Loi and Thanh Long villages, thanks to their strong guerrilla forces, repelled and inflicted heavy losses on the intruders, thus minimizing losses to our people.

Comrade (Nguyen Van Luu), deputy leader of the Hao Thanh village unit, told us about a battle in his village: The battle took place near Dinh Trung hamlet. We knew that enemy soldiers would take a deserted trail to approach the village. Our guerrilla combatants planted spikes and mines and a group was chosen to lay an ambush. The enemy soldiers were clever; they did not move in a compact group. But they could not escape in spite of their cleverness. We exploded the mines where the enemy troops were most concentrated and the guerrillas lying in ambush opened fire at those in the open, forcing them to run toward the spikes. In that battle, a whole squad of enemy soldiers was annihilated while we suffered no casualties.

Political officer of the village unit (Nguyen Xuan Ut), a cadre who meritoriously served as a reconnaissance combatant during the anti-U.S. struggle, recalled another battle in Thanh Long village: One day, while two guerrilla platoons were holding a meeting, it was reported that an enemy force almost three companies strong had launched an attack on an area along Route 13. Although the area attacked did not belong to his village, (Ut) unhesitatingly sent out his forces in two columns to attack the enemy suddenly from behind in support of the friendly village. In that battle, the enemy was completely beaten, suffering 10 killed and leaving behind a number of weapons; we suffered no casualties.

Maj (Tran Thanh Bao), cadre of the military region's political department, who was on a mission in Chau Thanh district, told us: The guerrilla forces here are of high quality. They hold fast to their positions and operate with strict discipline. Having witnessed their combat, training and other activities, I feel that they could have belonged to a regular unit.

The cadres of the Chau Thanh district military command do not indulge in subjectivism, but are resolutely striving to improve the quality of the local contingent of cadres and guerrilla militiamen, for the defense of this border area still poses many difficulties and challenges.

RADIO COMMENTARY REVIEWS RECENT BORDER CLASHES WITH CAMBODIA

BK111307Y Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 2330 GMT 10 Mar 78 BK

["Review of our Armed Forces' Operations To Punish the Cambodian Armed Forces for Their Crimes"]

[Text] Running counter to the earnest aspirations for solidarity among the Vietnamese and Cambodian peoples and progressive world opinion, in late February and early March the Cambodian administration continued to cause tension in the border area of the two countries by continuously inciting national hatred and distorting public opinion on the real situation and concerning the good will of our government and people.

It has continually maintained a large military force along the Vietnamese border and has daily used heavy artillery and mortars to wantonly shell densely populated areas and townships close to the border. The Cambodian armed forces have also been conducting incursions into Vietnamese territory, especially in Tay Ninh, Song Be, Long An and Dong Thap provinces, perpetrating many crimes and upsetting our people's peaceful life.

Many foreign reporters in Vietnam have witnessed this situation. On 7 March the French press carried many articles and photographs by three French journalists who had witnessed the Cambodian armed forces' incursions on 4 March into Thuong Phuoc village, Dong Thap Province, 1.5 km from the Cambodian border. They denounced before the people of France and the world that Cambodian troops had dug in in combat positions across the border, had been hourly firing mortar shells into Vietnam and had raided 5 km deep into Vietnamese territory, constantly threatening the lives of these three journalists.

The Cambodian authorities' gross act of encroachment on Vietnamese territory has not been been vehemently protested by progressive public opinion in the world but has also been **denounced by terrorized Cambodians themselves who have had to flee abroad.** Not long ago, in the magazine MIRROR, published in the FRG, a Cambodian named (Khem Son) wrote: In the first stage after Phnom Penh was liberated from U.S. occupation, the Khmer Rouge, namely the Cambodian authorities, began to send us, the Cambodian people, to ideological education classes. All single men 18 years of age and above were told that it was necessary to prepare for a new war. Who will be the enemy? Communist Vietnam. Therefore, we were told to work, work and work harder so that Cambodia could make preparations for waging war with sufficient reserves of rice and other necessary materials.

The Cambodian authorities' hostile policy toward Vietnam cannot deceive progressive public opinion in the world; nor can it deceive the Cambodian people themselves. This hostile policy only makes progressive public opinion in the world and our people and people's armed forces heighten their vigilance still further.

Our people always respect the independence, freedom, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Cambodia as well as of other countries, persist in maintaining their solidarity with the Cambodian people and unceasingly strive to settle through negotiations issues concerning the relations between the two countries. However, we are resolved not to allow anyone to violate the independence, freedom, sovereignty and the sacred territorial integrity of the Vietnamese fatherland. Fully imbued with this spirit, our armed forces and people in the border areas have dealt deserving punitive blows to the invaders and criminal perpetrators, to defend intact every inch of land and every mountain of the fatherland.

On 3 and 4 March 1978 the Tay Ninh armed forces and the people in the Lo Go and Xa Mat areas intercepted and fiercely attacked invading Cambodian forces, putting out of action almost 100 invaders and seizing 45 weapons. Also during this period, the Tay Ninh armed forces intercepted Cambodian raiders north of the Ka Tum crossroads, south of Vang, Trang Chau, and northeast of Phuoc Tan, wiping out many of them and forcing the remnants to flee in disarray.

From 27 February to 3 March the people and armed forces of Tay Ninh, Song Be and Dong Thap provinces organized combat operations against various groups of Cambodian soldiers who infiltrated into and mounted surprise attacks on Lo Go, Xa Mat, Trang Diec and Ka Tum in Tay Ninh Province, the Hoa Lu public security border defense post in Song Be Province, and Dinh Ba and Thuong Phuoc in Hong Ngu district, Dong Thap Province, putting out of action more than 290 intruders and seizing a lot of weapons and ammunition.

In all, in less than a week--from 27 February to 4 March--the people and armed forces in the southwestern border areas put out of action almost 400 enemy soldiers.

Many examples of valiant and resourceful combat have emerged from among those defending the sovereignty and borders of the fatherland. For instance: Platoon leader (Le Viet Xuan) of N group, though seriously wounded, did not leave his command post and took advantage of opportunities to effectively organize combat activities against the enemy; communications wireman (Le Minh Hien), supporting combat in Xa Mat, outstandingly fulfilled his task in every battle, insuring smooth communications for his unit to fight; squad leader (Pham Vinh Thien) of a unit belonging to the 7th Military Region always undertook the most difficult tasks and displayed his valor and intrepid nature in combat; Comrade (Lai Quang Luan) and his detachment fought the enemy in a very resourceful and flexible manner, attacking at its weak spots, using various types of weapons with proficiency and bringing into play many effective fighting methods; and so forth.

We warmly acclaim these fine examples and will learn from our cadres and combatants on the front of defending the fatherland's sovereignty and borders the spirit of mastery of the country, the spirit of collective mastery and the spirit of overcoming difficulties, heightening vigilance, standing combat-ready and fighting well.

CAMBODIAN PROPAGANDA COMPARED TO WORK OF GOEBBELS

OW111213Y Hanoi International Service in English 1000 GMT 11 Mar 78 OW

[Unattributed article]

[Text] Goebbels once said: If you tell a lie a thousand times, it will eventually appear to be truth. What a tragedy that the Kampuchean authorities seem to be following the advice of this fascist!

With complete duplicity, Kampuchea attacks Vietnamese territory and then claims Vietnam is invading her. They kill Vietnamese civilians and destroy Vietnamese villages along the border, then brazenly accuse Vietnam of doing likewise in Kampuchea. They have even massacred their own civilians, transported their bodies to the border and denounced Vietnam as the culprit.

Their propaganda continues to try to convince the Kampuchean people that Ho Chi Minh City is part of Kampuchean territory and that Vietnam intends to press Kampuchea into an Indochinese federation. They announce that they want to establish friendly relations with their neighbors, but insist that Vietnam is their mortal enemy. More shameless still is that since the Vietnamese Government's 5 February statement, they have stepped up their military attacks on Vietnam but claimed they have never refused to negotiate.

There is no doubt that the Kampuchean authorities are deliberately turning friends into foes and trying to make black white to cover up their injustice. By resorting to barbarity to reward those who have heartily assisted them, they have outshone Goebbels.

FRENCH JOURNALISTS CITED ON 4 MARCH CAMBODIAN ATTACK

OW110256Y Hanoi VNA English 0230 GMT 11 Mar 78 OW

[Text] Hanoi, 11 Mar (VNA)--Three French journalists have published in Paris newspapers articles and pictures on encroachments by Kampuchean troops on 4 March in the Thuong Phuoc area, Dong Thap Province, a mile from the Kampuchean border. They are Michel Strulovici, correspondent of L'HUMANITE; Jean Thoraval, AFP correspondent; and Jean Claude Labbe, Gamma photographer.

Michel Strulovici wrote:

"The Kampuchean army this weekend (4 March) gave direct proof of its aggression at Thuong Phuoc, a Vietnamese village along the Mekong River, one and a half kilometres from the border.

"When we reached the first frontline, at the edge of the village, a volley of Kampuchean shells caused us to leap into roadside trenches. After a short characteristic whiz, the first shell exploded near us. We then sat down, together with the AFP correspondent and Jean Claude Labbe, protected by a Vietnamese army group. We arrived at the edge of a banana grove where we could see Kampuchean intrusion into a Vietnamese rice-growing plain.

"....Eleven mortar shells caused us to dash several hundred metres to the nearby trenches. Meanwhile, 105-mm shells were fired on the Vietnamese regiment protecting the border.

Thoraval stated that after sustaining defeats at Phu Cuong, An Giang Province (also at the Vietnam-Kampuchea border) last 19 January, the Kampucheans changed tactics by warily firing heavy artillery and sending commandos at night into Vietnamese territory.

He went on: "In spite of these hazards, Vietnamese peasants continued to harvest their only crop of the year, around Thuong Phuoc.

"Vietnam's will for peace was reaffirmed many times this weekend in this village as well as in others. Back home in the evening, the villagers bathed in the Mekong River. Buffalo ridden by smiling children regained strength in the freshness of the river. A moment of quiet and peace. About 100 kilometres downstream, the Phnom Penh leaders were working out plans to fan hatred between the Kampuchean and Vietnamese peoples."

Jean Thoraval wrote in PARIS JOUR:

"It was 3:30 pm on Saturday (4 March) near the Mekong River, north of Dong Thap Province, 300 Kilometres from Ho Chi Minh City.

"We were on the edge of a banana grove at Thuong Phuoc village where we had been spotted by Kampuchean troops who fired mortar shells at us. The Kampuchean position was about 1 kilometre away and 500 metres inside Vietnamese territory. A mortar shell exploded close to our group as we took cover in some trenches. A tree was blown to pieces in front of us in a cloud of dust.

"At 3:45 pm we had just left our foxholes in the suffocating heat when Kampuchean mortars began firing again.

"...four Kampuchean soldiers could be seen moving in our direction. As we retreated, AK-47 automatic rifles opened up with long bursts of fire. About 100 metres behind us we had earlier seen a trench dug by Kampuchean troops during their attack on the village on the night of 27 February".

FRENCH VIETNAMESE JOURNALISTS INTERVIEW CAMBODIAN REFUGEES

OW110723Y Hanoi VNA English 0707 GMT 11 Mar 78 OW

[Text] Hanoi, 11 Mar (VNA)--In late February, a group of Vietnamese journalists and a French radio reporter, Lydie Nicoise Isabelle, made a tour of border areas in Vietnam's Tay Ninh Province. The party visited Thai Thanh Hamlet near the Tay Ninh holy see and about 19 km from the Kampuchean border. There they met people whose relatives were killed in a shelling attack by Kampuchean artillery on 19 February and spoke to refugees from Kampuchea. A reporter from the Voice of Vietnam radio went with the group and filed this report:

A granddaughter of the Thi Tien said the 60-year-old grandmother was killed when she ran for cover during the shelling. She was hit in the back and died instantly outside the bomb shelter. Her daughter and one of her grandsons were wounded in the attack. We saw a dozen shell fragments scattered in the house and around the garden. The family of Buddhist Bonze Nguyen Ngoc Linh was making preparations for his funeral. Fatally wounded in the shelling, this 66-year-old monk died in hospital. His house is now in ruins.

We visited the Ben San reception center for Kampuchean refugees, a few dozen kilometers away to the east of Tay Ninh provincial capital. The local administration was building new houses for the refugees, who are temporarily housed in makeshift thatch huts.

A representative of the local administration told us that the people of Tay Ninh, like all Vietnamese, are meeting numerous difficulties in healing the wounds of the U.S. aggressive war, are obliged at the same time to defend the border areas in face of Kampuchea's repeated incursions and shelling attacks. But the Tay Ninh authorities have nevertheless been instructed by the Vietnamese party and government to take care of Kampuchean refugees in a spirit of fraternity.

At the Ben San center, we were warmly received by Kampuchean refugees. They have come here from various parts of Kampuchea, but mostly are from Svay Rieng Province. The refugees arrived in two waves, the first in September and the second in December last year. We could not hide our surprise when we found that the refugees were all women and children. Tep Thol was a clerk at the Phnom Penh post office. She told us in French:

"This is not unusual at all. The men were taken away by the Kampuchean authorities. Many of them were killed, my husband included. He was an officer in the army of Prince Sihanouk. All intellectuals, professors and doctors were arrested, killed or sent to unknown destinations. There are no schools in Kampuchea, and pagodas were destroyed. Manual work is heavy, but no one gets enough food, none of us. I remember a man from Svay Rieng said after a meal, 'I am still very hungry. He was immediately beaten up and later buried alive.'"

We asked Tep Thol to tell us what she felt upon arriving in Vietnam. She answered: "The greater our disappointment in Kampuchea, the bigger are our hopes here in Vietnam. We have been given food and, especially, freedom, which is unknown in our own country. In Kampuchea we were heavily guarded. We were not allowed to talk to each other. Family life was nonexistent. No one dared speak the truth."

We asked Tep Thol if she knew anything about the fate of Vietnamese residents in Kampuchea. She replied: "They were driven back to Vietnam or massacred. Certainly, many of them were killed."

Standing in a huge crowd round us, a Kampuchean mother suddenly shouted something to us.

"What did she say," I asked Noun Varin, a refugee woman intellectual nearby. Noun Varin answered in French: "The woman is asking the journalists not to forget to speak of the friendship between the Vietnamese and Kampuchean peoples."

FOREIGN PRESS, GROUPS CONTINUE TO SUPPORT SRV BORDER STAND

OW101531Y Hanoi VNA in English 1459 GMT 10 Mar 78 OW

[Text] Hanoi, 10 Mar (VNA)--The international meeting of Parliamentarians for Peace held in Helsinki recently expressed deep concern at the continued deterioration of the situation at the frontier between Vietnam and Kampuchea caused by Kampuchean armed attacks.

A "statement on the Vietnam--Kampuchea border problem," released at the conclusion of the meeting, said: "We regret to note that the Kampuchean authorities refuse to enter into negotiations with the Vietnamese to put an end to these hostilities as soon as possible. This seriously threatens the friendship between the two peoples and the peace in this part of Asia, and gives advantage only to the splitting tactics of the imperialists and reactionaries of the world. "We fully support the position taken by the Government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam as set out in its declaration of 31 December 1977 and its declaration of 5 February 1978, repeating its proposals for settling the conflict by negotiations with the least possible delay."

When receiving Vietnamese Ambassador to Mozambique Truong Binh, lawyer R.B. Santos Alves, minister of justice and permanent member of the parliament of Mozambique, said:

"Vietnam has proposed correct measures, but the Kampuchean side has so far given no sign of reciprocity. We hope that the Kampuchean side will accept the Vietnamese proposals so that the two parties can sit down for negotiations to peacefully settle problems so that the two parties can sit down for negotiations to peacefully settle problems concerning relations between the two countries."

When meeting Vietnamese Charge d'Affaires a.i. in Cuba Tran Huu Suy on Tuesday, the secretary general of the Chilean United Popular Action Movement (MAPU) said the conflict caused by Kampuchea at the border with Vietnam only benefits imperialism and the international reactionaries.

The MAPU party, he added, "fully supports the just stand of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam Government expounded in its statements of 31 December 1977 and 5 February 1978, and calls on the Kampuchean authorities to negotiate without dealy with Vietnam so as to peacefully solve the relations between the two countries on the basis of solidarity, friendship and good neighbourhood."

The Institute of Mexican-Soviet Friendship and Cultural Exchange recently sent a letter to the Vietnam Committee for Solidarity and Friendship with the Peoples of Other Countries, saying that the Vietnamese statements on the Vietnam-Kampuchea border provide fundamental, fair, reasonable and genuine conditions to settle the Vietnam-Kampuchea relations. The letter criticized the Kampuchean authorities for continuing armed provocations at the border and refusing to reciprocate the correct and constructive proposals of the Vietnam Government.

Danish, Italian Communist Parties

OW111521Y Hanoi VNA in English 1456 GMT 11 Mar 78 OW

[Text] Hanoi, 11 Mar (VNA)--The Vietnam-Kampuchea conflict must be solved rapidly through peaceful negotiations, said the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Denmark in a recent letter to the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Vietnam.

The letter noted that this conflict is detrimental to the peoples of the two countries and is only beneficial to imperialism--the common enemy of all democratic and progressive forces.

It further said: "The Communist Party of Denmark supports the proposals for peaceful negotiations put forth by the Vietnamese Government and Communist Party, especially the proposal of 5 February 1978 calling for an immediate end to all hostile military actions, bilateral troop withdrawal from the border areas and immediate negotiations so as to sign an agreement based on respect for each other's independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity.

The Communist Party of Italy committee of Vinchaturo town recently sent a letter to the Vietnamese Embassy in Rome hailing the Vietnamese proposals for settling problems concerning Vietnam-Kampuchea relations.

It is regrettable that the Kampuchean said has not yet reciprocated these proposals, the letter said. "We are grieved by the happenings and indignant at the Kampuchean authorities' attitude," the letter said. "We are convinced that justice and reason will prevail in the end."

The letter conveyed to the Vietnamese communists sentiments of solidarity from Italian communists and expressed the belief that "you will maintain a generous attitude toward Kampuchea. With such an attitude, your prestige among the nations will be raised, and you deserve the sympathy of peace-loving peoples."

Czechoslovak, Hungarian, Italian Press

OW121551Y Hanoi VNA in English 1523 GMT 12 Mar 78 OW

[Text] Hanoi, 12 Mar (VNA)--Under the title "Deception of World Public Opinion," the Prague paper PRACE on 10 March said that Kampuchean authorities did not match their words with deeds. The Czechoslovak union paper, recalling Phnom Penh's recent statements that it would not reject any peace proposal, pointed out that what Kampuchea was doing was different (?from) what it was speaking.

L'UNITA, newspaper of the Communist Party of Italy, on 5-6 March carried reports of Kampuchean violations in Tay Ninh, Long An and An Giang. The paper noted that shellings were followed by infantry attacks, and these were witnessed by foreign journalists.

The Hungarian union paper NEPSZAVA on 10 March said that Kampuchean authorities deliberately distorted Vietnam's policy of peace.

"The urgent situation demands that public opinion in the world side with the Vietnamese people and resolutely support Vietnam's fair and reasonable proposals concerning its relations with Kampuchea," the paper stressed.

CPUSA'S GUS HALL REMARKS ON U.S. RACISM CITED

BK130530Y Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 12 Mar 78 BK

[Text] According to a U.S. source, General Secretary of the U.S. Communist Party Gus Hall recently addressed a meeting held in Los Angeles, California and pointed out the following: Racism is deeply rooted in the United States. It is a kind of chronic illness of U.S. society which has poisoned the American people's lives. It has become a burden and a great obstacle to U.S. society.

The poisonous dose of racism has changed the nature of the political, economic and social organization in the United States. Acting in line with the principle of divide and rule, the ruling bourgeois class has taken advantage of racism to exploit the working people and make huge profits.

Comrade Gus Hall added: The authorities do not shrink from practicing any cruel aspect of racism. They have taken advantage of the information and propaganda media to distort U.S. history. They are fully aware what the strength of the working class would be if it were united. Therefore, they have tried their best to prevent the working people from establishing a united front.

Comrade Gus Hall called on the American people to unite in the common struggle against the enemy of all those who are being exploited and to continue to accelerate the struggle against racism.

SHIP CARRYING PRIVATE U.S. WHEAT AID LEAVES HOUSTON

1151 Hanoi VNA in English 1454 GMT 11 Mar 78 OW

[Text] Hanoi, 11 Mar (VNA)--A ship loaded with 10,000 tons of wheat as aid to Vietnam has left the port of Houston, Texas.

Both the wheat and the freight charges have been paid for by farmers in 6 midwestern states and by church organisations and 58 other organisations in the United States and abroad.

At the meeting in the Rothko Church in Houston port organised by the Church World Service, Houston Mayor Jim McConn called on all people to join in activities in support of Vietnam.

ITALIAN, MEXICAN PEOPLES SEND PRIVATE AID

OW121607Y Hanoi VNA in English 1528 GMT 12 Mar 78 OW

[Text] Hanoi, 12 Mar (VNA)--Three hundred and twenty thousand lire have been given to Vietnam for postwar construction. The sum, collected by people in Coserta and the Monoever de Cultural Workers Association, was handed over by a deputation to the Vietnamese Embassy in Rome on 3 March.

The head of the deputation, M. Rossi, said on this occasion: "Negotiation is the only way to put an end to the border conflict and settle the relations between the neighboring Vietnamese and Kampuchean peoples. We condemn all acts of intervention by the imperialists and international reaction who are lending a hand to the Kampuchean authorities." A cheque for 100,000 pesos was handed over to Vietnamese Ambassador Le Tham in Mexico on 9 March by Dr Leopoldo Keth Kenyeres, a writer and journalist who has struggled for freedom, democracy and socialism since 1919. Present on this occasion were Amalia Cardenas, widow of the late President Lazaro Cardenas, and journalist Luis Suarez and Mrs Suarez, from the Democratic Journalists Association.

Margarita Keth said: "The Vietnamese people had to fight the Japanese, French and U.S. imperialists, and many Vietnamese generations did not know peace."

"I hope that many other people will assist the valiant Vietnamese people who have endured sufferings in the war," she said.

HOANG QUOC VIET GREETES TENG HSIAO-PING ON CPPCC ELECTION

OW110929Y Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 10 Mar 78 OW

[Text of 9 March message to Teng Hsiao-ping, chairman of the PRC People's Political Consultative Conference, from Hoang Quoc Viet, chairman of the Presidium of the Vietnam Fatherland Front Central Committee]

[Text] On the occasion of your election as chairman of the People's Political Consultative Conference, on behalf of the VFF Central Committee, I wish to extend to you our warm congratulations.

The Vietnamese people are very elated at the great achievements in many fields recorded by the fraternal people of China in socialist revolution and socialist construction. We express our sincere gratitude to the Chinese people for their warm support and assistance to the Vietnamese people's hard and protracted struggles.

Acting upon President Ho Chi Minh's teachings, the Vietnamese people, closely united in the Fatherland Front under the leadership of the glorious Communist Party of Vietnam, are resolved to preserve and defend the friendly solidarity between Vietnam and China and make it ever green and ever lasting.

I wish you good health and many great successes in your noble tasks.

TRADE CONTRACT SIGNED BETWEEN BINH TRI THIEN, LAOS' SAVANNAKHET

OW101525Y Hanoi VNA in English 1454 GMT 10 Mar 78 OW

[Text] Hanoi, 10 Mar (VNA)--A trade contract between Vietnam's Binh Tri Thien Province and Laos' Savannakhet Province for 1978 was signed recently in Hue, capital of Binh Tri Thien. Under the contract, the exchange of commodities between the two provinces this year will increase more than four times compared with last year.

The signatories, Phan Dinh Chi, member of Binh Tri Thien's people's committee and director of the province's trade service, and Chanbon, head of Savannakhet's trade delegation, warmly praised the friendship and militant solidarity between the peoples of Vietnam and Laos, and of the two provinces in particular.

CUBAN FRIENDSHIP DELEGATION BEGINS VISIT 10 MARCH

OW101601Y Hanoi VNA in English 1508 GMT 10 Mar 78 OW

[Text] Hanoi, 10 Mar (VNA)--A delegation of the national coordinating committee of the Cuban Committee for the Defence of the Revolution arrived here today for a visit to Vietnam. The delegation, led by Marie Perez, member of the National Committee, was met by Phan Tu Nghia, member of the Central Committee of the Fatherland Front, and other representatives.

Awarded Friendship Order

OW101603Y Hanoi VNA in English 1512 GMT 10 Mar 78 OW

[Text] Hanoi, 10 Mar (VNA)--A ceremony was held here this afternoon for the conferment of Vietnam's Friendship Order on the Cuban Institute of Friendship with the Peoples and the Cuba-Vietnam Friendship Association.

Present were Hoang Minh Giam, president of the Presidium of the Committee for Solidarity and Friendship with the Peoples of Other Countries and chairman of the Foreign Relations Commission of the National Assembly; Hoang Tung, member of the Central Committee of the Communist Party and president of the Vietnam-Cuba Friendship Association; Vo Dong Giang, vice minister for foreign affairs; and others.

Cuban representatives included Isidoro Figueroa, acting president of the Cuba-Vietnam Friendship Association; Carlos Vega from the Cuban Institute of Friendship with the Peoples; Melba Hernandez, ambassador and former president of the Cuba-Vietnam Friendship Association; staff members of the Cuban Embassy; and members of the Ho Chi Minh International Construction Brigade and of a television delegation.

Hoang Tung hailed the activities of the Cuba-Vietnam Friendship Association and its predecessor--the Cuban Committee for Solidarity with the Vietnamese People--which, under the personal leadership of Premier Fidel Castro and together with the Cuban Institute of Friendship with the Peoples, supported the Vietnamese people's fight against the U.S. imperialists and is helping Vietnam rebuild itself.

The decree signed by President Ton Duc Thang on the decoration was read by Hoang Minh Giam who, on behalf of the National Assembly and government, handed the orders to Isidoro Figueroa and Carlos Vega.

"The decoration," said Isidoro Figueroa, "was a vivid expression of the eternal friendship and fraternity between the countries of Jose Marti and Fidel Castro and of President Ho Chi Minh." To Carlos Vega, it symbolized the "strong ties" binding the two nations, the two parties and the two governments.

Received by Hoang Quoc Viet

OW111525Y Hanoi VNA in English 1501 GMT 11 Mar 78 OW

[Text] Hanoi, 11 Mar VNA--Hoang Quoc Viet, member of the Central Committee of the Communist Party and president of the Presidium of the Fatherland Front Central Committee, this evening received the delegation of the National Coordinating Committee of Cuban Committees for the Defence of the Revolution.

In a cordial conversation with the Cuban delegates, Hoang Quoc Viet wished for further consolidation and development of the militant solidarity, friendship and fraternal cooperation between Vietnam and Cuba. Present on this occasion were Nguyen Van Tien, secretary general of the front Central Committee, and Cuban Councillor Viriato Mora Diaz.

HUYNH TAN PHAT RECEIVES POLISH TRADE DELEGATION

OW101551Y Hanoi VNA in English 1509 GMT 10 Mar 78 OW

[Text] Hanoi, 10 Mar (VNA)--Vice Premier Huynh Tan Phat today received the Polish trade delegation led by T. Nestorowicz, vice minister of foreign trade and maritime economy.

Present on the occasion were Vice Minister of Foreign Trade Nguyen Van Dao and Polish Ambassador Jozef Puta. The vice premier had a cordial conversation with his guests.

Trade Protocol Signed

OW101553Y Hanoi VNA in English 1510 GMT 10 Mar 78 OW

[Text] Hanoi, 10 Mar (VNA)--A protocol on goods exchange and payments between Vietnam and Poland for 1978 was signed here today by Vietnamese Vice Minister of Foreign Trade Nguyen Van Dao and Polish Vice Minister of Foreign Trade and Maritime Economy T. Nestorowicz. Present at the signing ceremony were Vietnamese Minister of Foreign Trade Dang Viet Chau, Polish ambassador Jozef Puta and other representatives.

JAPANESE SOLIDARITY COMMITTEE DELEGATION ENDS HANOI VISIT

OW111509Y Hanoi VNA in English 1451 GMT 11 Mar 78 OW

[Text] Hanoi, 11 Mar (VNA)--The delegation of the Japanese Committee for Support of Vietnam and the movement for books and photographs to Vietnam left Hanoi today.

The delegation was led by Hoshiro Tsutomu, member of the Presidium of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Japan. It was seen off by Tran Dahn Tuyen, president of the Vietnam-Japan Friendship Association; Taro Miyamoto, president representative of the JCP in Vietnam; and others.

In Hanoi, the delegation paid tribute at the Ho Chi Minh Mausoleum, visited the late president's house, and was cordially received by Nguyen Duy Trinh, member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Communist Party and vice premier.

The delegation attended a ceremony for the conferment of the Friendship Order on the Japanese Committee for Support of Vietnam, and witnessed the transfer of the 12th shipment of aid by the Japanese people.

The delegation called at the Executive Committees of the Vietnam-Japan Friendship Association and the Ho Chi Minh Communist Youth Union, and at the people's committees and the committees of the Fatherland Front and the committee for solidarity and friendship with peoples of other countries in Ho Chi Minh City. The delegation also visited different economic, cultural, and social establishments.

PHAM VAN DONG RECEIVES AUSTRIAN, GREEK AMBASSADORS

OW111505Y Hanoi VNA English 1445 GMT 11 Mar 78 OW

[Text] Hanoi, 11 Mar (VNA)--Dr Willfried Gredler, ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the Republic of Austria, and Dhimitrios Velissaropoulos, the first ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the Hellenic Republic to the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, paid courtesy calls on Premier Pham Van Dong today. Premier Pham Van Dong had cordial conversations with the Austrian and Greek ambassadors.

PHAM HUNG ATTENDS LAM DONG CONFERENCE ON IMPLEMENTING PLANS

BK111016Y Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 10 Mar 78 BK

[Text] Vice Premier Pham Hung, VCP Central Committee Political Bureau member, recently visited Lam Dong Province and attended a conference of central sectors concerned with agriculture, water conservancy, forestry, light industry, electricity, engineering, chemicals, construction, supply and communications and transportation to discuss with provincial officials measures to implement the state plan for 1978 and subsequent years. Also attending the conference were some ministers, deputy ministers, general department heads and deputies, and technical cadres.

At the conference, Vice Premier Pham Hung expressed his joy over the fine results achieved by the conferees, who had unanimously asserted the important potentials and position of Lam Dong Province. Central sector and provincial officials are aware of the new factors and unanimously agreed to carry out the urgent tasks prescribed in the provincial 1978 plan. Vice Premier Pham Hung expressed many specific views on how to satisfactorily resolve the problems of irrigation, fertilizer, construction materials, engineering and communications and transportation, to carry out various tasks and to concentrate on outstandingly developing agriculture.

He directed all sectors, the premier's office and the Lam Dong provincial people's committee to satisfactorily carry out the tasks set forth by the conference. He urged Lam Dong provincial officials to satisfactorily perform the tasks of transforming private trade and industry, especially the private trade and communications and transportation sectors, of reforming agriculture by directing peasants to the path of collective work and large-scale production, and of improving market management by organizing the circulation and distribution of goods in order to accelerate production, gradually improve the provincial people's livelihood and successfully implement the resolutions of the fourth party congress and the party Central Committee's second and third plenums.

TEXT OF FATHERLAND FRONT RESOLUTION ON 1978 TASKS

OW110935Y Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 7 Mar 78 OW

[Text] of 6 March resolution of the second conference of the Vietnam Fatherland Front Central Committee]

[Text] The second conference of the VFF Central Committee was held in Hanoi from 2 to 6 March 1978 to review the front's work in the past year and discuss the front's activities, guidelines and tasks for 1978.

~~After hearing~~ reports and holding discussions, the conferees noted that in the past year, in light of the resolutions of the fourth congress and second plenum of the Central Committee of the VCP, our people had jointly and resolutely struggled to overcome difficulties, the consequences of the war and natural calamities; scored many important achievements; and begun to reorganize the unified national economy. National unity has been increasingly consolidated and expanded. The front's four-level organizational system has been established and has become effective in practical terms. All strata of people have been motivated to step up the building of a new economy, new social system, new culture and new type of socialist man.

The conferees warmly praised our compatriots of various nationalities throughout the country--workers, peasants, intellectuals, laborers and combatants of the people's armed forces--for upholding the spirit of self-reliance and self-improvement and the revolutionary offensive spirit and for exerting great efforts to overcome difficulties and ordeals and develop positive factors and great capabilities for building socialism.

The conferees warmly commended the political parties, mass organizations, nationalities, religious communities, notables and people throughout the country and the compatriots abroad for positively participating in implementing the front's eight-point political program and statute, strengthening their solidarity, fulfilling every mission and task and making glorious contributions to the revolutionary cause of the entire country.

The conferees happily observed that in the past year, the relations of solidarity and friendship between our people and the world's peoples have been strengthened and expanded and the SRV has heightened its international role and position as a regular member of the United Nations.

The conferees expressed regret that the Cambodian authorities have pursued a policy of national hatred, violated Vietnamese territory, run counter to the Cambodian people's legitimate interests and undermined the friendship between the two peoples.

The conferees voiced full support for our government's principled stand to firmly safeguard Vietnam's independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity while always respecting Cambodia's independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity; to persistently maintain solidarity with the Cambodian people; and to make constant efforts to rapidly settle the Vietnam-Cambodia border conflict through peaceful negotiations and restore friendly relations between the two peoples.

The conferees noted that 1978 is of particular importance to the fulfillment of the second state 5-year plan. Under the VCP's leadership, the front must continue to further strengthen national unity; must strongly motivate the people of all strata to develop patriotism and revolutionary enthusiasm; and must enhance the responsibilities of the collective masters of the country, whip up a socialist emulation movement, effect profound changes in the national economy as a whole and resolutely oppose all negative phenomena in economic and social life, while successfully completing the 1978 state plan and creating conditions for fulfilling the 1976-1980 5-year plan.

The conferees stressed the need for the front committees at various levels to strive in the future to develop advantages and strong points and overcome shortcomings in the front's activities, especially in building organizations and improving working procedures to make the front's activities consistent with the new situation and tasks and to promptly meet the requirements for implementing the state plan and manage economic and social affairs in the new stage.

To continue implementation of the front's political program and statute and to meet the requirements of the new situation and tasks, the conferees unanimously approved the following guidelines and specific tasks of the front in 1978:

1. Promote the political and ideological tasks and instruction in revolutionary ethics among the cadres and people; step up the revolutionary mass movement; successfully complete the 1978 state plan; and closely coordinate the political motivation and indoctrination of the people with the motivation of the population to step up the various mass

movements along the following main lines; promote the socialist concerted emulation movement; step up socialist transformation in the southern provinces; improve socialist production relations in the northern provinces, intensify the campaign for building an all-people national defense, maintain political security and social order; and promote the campaign for building a civilized lifestyle and families based on the new culture.

2. Motivate the people to actively participate in drafting a new constitution; strengthen the socialist legal system with the sense of fully exercising collective mastership; closely cooperate with various state organs to motivate, organize and guide the people; join the cadres and people in studying, discussing and exchanging views on the new constitution; strengthen and improve relations between the front and state organs in insuring the people's collective mastership; and prevent or promptly eliminate violations of policies, laws and people's democratic freedoms.

3. Scrupulously implement the front's policy of great national unity on the basis of strengthening the peasant-worker alliance; strive to strengthen and expand the unity of all strata of people, nationalities, religious organizations, and notables; and provide for the people's livelihood.

4. Continue to strengthen the international relations of friendship and cooperation between our people and the peoples of socialist countries and of the rest of the world and implement the correct foreign policy of the party and government.

5. Strengthen, consolidate, expand and perfect the front's systems and organizations throughout the country; turn the front into a firm support for the administration; enable the front to constantly develop its influence in all state and social activities; concentrate on improving the work of the front committees and developing the activities of members of the front committees at all levels; expand the various organizations of the front and masses at the basic level, especially in the southern provinces; further strengthen and improve relations among the front members to achieve unity of action; and strengthen relations and cooperation between the front and state organs.

The conferees urged the compatriots and combatants in the country and overseas compatriots to constantly strengthen their unity and endeavor to successfully accomplish all tasks and missions and score even greater achievements in building and protecting the socialist Vietnamese homeland. Let our entire people unite and devote everything to production and socialist construction for the fatherland's prosperity and the people's happiness.

GENERAL'S ARTICLE URGES GOOD FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT IN ARMY

BK101339Y Hanoi NHAN DAN in Vietnamese 14 Feb 78 p 5 BK

[Article by Maj Gen Nguyen Duong: "Uphold Financial Discipline in the Army"]

[Summary] Financial management, a very important task, has been regularly led and guided by the Central Military Party Committee and the Defense Ministry, especially since 1967, during which period several resolutions and directives have been issued to intensively improve this task.

After studying the fourth party congress resolution, army cadres, especially those in the financial branch, have come to realize the relationship between the economy and national defense and to realize the postwar difficulties of the country's economy and state finance. They have boldly improved management, further standardizing and unifying financial work. The management of materials and other assets has clearly progressed and developed in all units and armed services and branches.

"Financial agencies have contributed to the implementation of resolution no 228 and have brought about some results in curtailing expenditures which are not in accordance with set principles and regulations, thus recovering a large quantity of money, materials and other assets.... Funds illegally established in many units in the past several years have been inspected, inventoried and dealt with."

"Many good financial management units have continued to develop their achievements, such as the 5th Signal Regiment, the 259th Engineer Regiment and the Tat Thang Artillery Regiment." Under the productive labor movement to become self-sufficient in grain and food, some other units have strictly complied with financial discipline, for example, the 567th Group (1st Military Region), 51st Regiment (Thai Binh provincial military command), 50th Regiment (Haiphong garrison troops), war invalids, tailoring enterprise (3d Military Region) and Xuan Thuy district military organ (Ha Nam Ninh)..."

However, such progress is still slow and not uniform compared with the present requirements of economic construction and socialist transformation. Meanwhile, there have been cases of serious violations of the financial principles and regulations, such as improper use of funds, irrational purchases of goods through the private sectors, illegal establishment of funds and failure to report receipts to higher levels. "Some units which are not allocated funds have sought to either transfer money from one fund to another or to sell materials to get money to make other purchases." The management of materials and other assets and the administration of stamps for food, grain and other commodities still present several loopholes which result in corruption and favoritism.

The subjective causes of this situation lie in the fact that leaders of various branches at all echelons have failed to enforce discipline and socialist laws and have not fully realized how to carry out financial matters in the new stage.

As a major component of state finance, the army's financial work must follow the state regulations and procedures and must be steadily standardized. Units of all armed services and branches must exert efforts to stop all of the above cited violations and other infringements on the financial regulations. "Financial discipline promotes the use of army personnel in accordance with the norms prescribed in the labor plan, reduces the waste of manpower and increases productivity, the quantity of products and revenue. If the economic and financial management of the armed forces is to steadily progress, command cadres must directly lead the tasks of propaganda and education in their units and of enforcing financial discipline and socialist laws.

"The campaign to enforce discipline constitutes a major favorable condition for improving financial management. With a new spirit, the entire financial branch of the army must exert outstanding efforts to uphold discipline and enforce socialist laws and must continue to successfully implement Political Bureau resolution No. 228."

NATIONAL CATHOLIC COMMITTEE MEETS IN HO CHI MINH CITY

OW120748Y Hanoi VNA in English 0730 GMT 12 Mar 78 OW

[Text] Hanoi 12 Mar (VNA)--a cordial meeting was held yesterday by members of the National Liaison Committee of Patriotic and Peace-Loving Catholics in Ho Chi Minh City to mark the 23rd founding anniversary of this body.

The more than 80 participants included Archbishop Nguyen Van Binh, Nguyen Ho, head of the propaganda and front committee of the city committee of the Communist Party, and Nguyen Ngoc Thanh, vice president of the city committee of the Fatherland Front.

Father Vo Thanh Trinh, executive member of the National Liaison Committee, underscored the committee's contributions to the cause of the nation. He was followed by Nguyen Ho, who exposed the imperialist scheme of making use of religion as a means to sow discord among the people. Nguyen Ho also stressed the close relations between Catholics and the rest of the people, and the role they played in national construction.

Other speakers agreed with the view held by Bishop Pham Van Nam, coadjutor to the archbishopric, that Catholics must take an active part in the transformation and construction of the city and in building national unity.

BRIEFS

CUBAN CINEMATOGRAPHY DELEGATION--Hanoi, 10 Mar--The Cuban cinematographic delegation left Hanoi yesterday after attending a Cuban film week here. The delegation was led by Santiago Alvarez, deputy director of the institute of cinematographic art and industry. It included Marta Hejas, journalist, and Ivan Napoles, cameraman. They were seen off by Nguyen Duy Can, deputy director of the cinematographic department, Cuban Ambassador Melba Hernandez, and others. During a meeting with Vietnamese film workers on 8 March, Santiago Alvarez announced the plan for a Cuban film on "heroism of Vietnamese women in everyday life". [Text] [Hanoi VNA in English 0700 GMT 10 Mar 78 OW]

BULGARIAN PHILOSOPHER--Hanoi, 9 Mar--Dr P. Gindev, alternate member of the Central Committee of the Bulgarian Communist Party and vice director of the philosophy institute in Bulgaria has paid a fortnight's visit here. P. Gindev laid a wreath at the Ho Chi Minh Mausoleum and visited the late president's house in Hanoi. He also gave lectures in Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City, and was received by Tran Quang Huy, member of the Central Committee of the Communist Party and minister in charge of cultural and educational work at the premier's office. [Text] [Hanoi VNA in English 1505 GMT 9 Mar 78 OW]

MEETING WITH FOREIGN WOMEN--Hanoi, 7 Mar--A meeting was held today with foreign women in Vietnam by the Executive Committee of the Women's Union, on the occasion of international women's day 8 March. Present were Ha Thi Que, president of the union, and other leading members of the union, and officials of ministries, departments, offices and organizations concerned. The guests included female members of the diplomatic corps, embassy staffers and experts working in Hanoi. Ha Thi Que extended cordial greetings to the foreign friends and thanked the international women's movement for its warm, precious support for Vietnam. She wished the friendship between Vietnamese women and women in other countries the best of success. [Text] [Hanoi VNA in English 1536 GMT 7 Mar 78 OW]

MEETING OF NUNS--Hanoi, March 8--Vietnamese nuns are increasingly conscious that besides their religious vocation they have the duty to build the nation like any other citizen. This was the consensus of a recent meeting of Catholic and Buddhist nuns in Ho Chi Minh City on international women's day. Taking part were representatives of 17 Catholic orders and 2 main Buddhist churches in the city. Their discussion centered on how religious women could help build the country. Nuns from orphanages, hospitals, leprosariums, reeducation centres for former prostitutes, and other social centres expressed their willingness to devote themselves to healing the wounds of war. [Hanoi VNA in English 0733 GMT 8 Mar 78 OW]

MALIK OPENS PEOPLE'S CONSULTATIVE ASSEMBLY SESSION 11 MARCH

BK110924Y Jakarta Domestic Service in Indonesian 0600 GMT 11 Mar 78 BK

[Text] In his opening speech at the People's Consultative Assembly general session, Assembly Speaker Adam Malik said that the assembly general session this year is being attended by 892 of the assembly's 920 members. The session approved by acclamation the assembly's agenda for 1978.

Today's opening ceremony of the People's Consultative Assembly general session was attended by government officials and members of high state institutions as well as heads of diplomatic missions in Jakarta.

Hamengku Buwono Not To Run Again

BK111425Y Jakarta Domestic Service in Indonesian 1200 GMT 11 Mar 78 BK

[Text] President Suharto has said that he will no longer make major policy decisions and has ordered the second development cabinet members to do likewise. This was stated by the president at the final plenary cabinet session held at the cabinet secretariat building this afternoon following the president's account before the People's Consultative Assembly general session.

Acting Information Minister Sudharmono told newsmen after the cabinet meeting that President Suharto's statement was made to give the new president a greater opportunity to decide on his policies. However, pending the decision of the People's Consultative Assembly general session, cabinet ministers were instructed to continue to perform routine administrative activities. The ministers were also instructed to insure the smooth supply of daily necessities for the people. In particular, officers in charge of public security and order were urged to continue to be alert, especially in providing security to members of the People's Consultative Assembly during the sessions.

At the final cabinet meeting today, Vice President Hamengku Buwono also made his farewell statement to the present cabinet which will cease to exist after 23 March. Acting Information Minister Sudharmono read as follows:

[Begin recording] My tenure of office as vice president of the Republic of Indonesia will end on 23 March. On this occasion I should like to express my appreciation and thanks to President Suharto, who until now has enabled me to [words indistinct] with him and with cabinet members and other high ranking officials in the central as well as in the local governments.

Despite my sadness I am proud to have taken part, however indirectly, in the government's efforts to make positive achievements. The realization of national stability and the establishment of international relations, which will be further promoted, are some of the present cabinet's achievements, recognized by the Indonesian people as well as by friendly nations throughout the world.

Like the president, I have always listened to the voices of the people who seek better and more stable social justice in order to insure a prosperous life without undue physical and mental pressure.

It is also my conviction that our struggle to build the society to which we all aspire must be continued and intensified. The New Order's struggle to safeguard Pancasila and the 1945 Constitution and to implement national development must be carried out seriously.

At present the People's Consultative Assembly is studying and evaluating the account made by the president in his capacity as mandate holder. The People's Consultative Assembly is also to elect a president and a vice president.

In this respect I sincerely, without influence from any quarter and with a full sense of responsibility, have decided not to accept the nomination as vice presidential candidate. I have taken this decision for reasons of health. Other considerations I have taken into account in making this decision include my obligation to give greater and more effective service to the nation and the state. I will only be able to give this service if I relinquish my post as vice president. Although I have taken this decision, I feel I will still be ready and able to help in efforts to continue national development, if called upon to do so.

Finally I wish to express once again my thanks to cabinet members and other high-ranking officials for their assistance and cooperation accorded to me during my tenure as vice president. [end recording]

Suharto Excerpt on Defense-Security Policy

BK121230Y Jakarta Domestic Service in Indonesian 0237 GMT 11 Mar 78 BK

[Excerpt from President Suharto's 11 March speech before the People's Consultative Assembly general session--live. Full text to be published in a later issue of the DAILY REPORT]

[Excerpt] Honorable assembly: Allow me now to report on the defense and security problem. In this connection I should like to invite you to look back and then forward to future developments in our efforts to respond to challenges. Defense and security are not isolated entities, but are closely related to political, economic and social problems and to world trends as well. Thus, in developing our defense and security capability, all these developments should be taken into account.

Experience teaches us that weak points in national resilience invite all kinds of social-political upheavals with all their resultant consequences. In the future we must have the ability to cope with rapid change. As a matter of fact this is one of the important factors in national resilience. Developing national resilience is not a matter of building strength to face or even attack other nations, but it is the correct way for any country facing possible threats and disturbances from outside and from within. This calls for mobilizing all national potential--political, economic, social, cultural, defense and security.

The national resilience concept is very important because the threat does not vanish simply because there have been detente between the major powers and war in our region has ended. It is clear that struggle for influence still exists and attempts to undermine other nations from within have not ceased. It is not necessary to launch an open war in order to impose one's will on others. Such goals can be achieved through other means, such as psychological infiltration, subversion and other sinister activities. Therefore we must build strong national resilience.

In enhancing national resilience, priority will be given according to our capability and the challenges we face. Therefore economic development is today's national development priority because economic deterioration affects the livelihood of many people and this can become the weakest link in the chain of national resilience. Our achievements in economic development will strengthen our economic resilience and increase our capacity to strengthen national resilience in other sectors.

As I said earlier, experience teaches us it is impossible to carry out development without stability. Therefore the creation of stability for development is an important part of our national strategy. Closely related to the development of national stability is the maintenance of security and order--the prerequisite for national development and one of its objectives. If we are to have physical security and peace of mind, and if we are to eliminate the fear of outside threats and the anxiety of internal disturbances, the problem of defense and security involves broad interrelated aspects.

As I stated earlier, the world is rife with contests of strength. It is not yet free from contention for influence and is still haunted by threats of subversion and infiltration. So there is no ironclad assurance that war can be eliminated and that we can be free from any attack from outside, however small this possibility might be. No matter how, we must defend our territorial integrity. How we preserve national unity and safeguard national sovereignty is a question and responsibility of the whole people.

National defense and security cannot be developed without the people's participation. Nevertheless in the overall efforts to develop national defense and security, the role and responsibility of the armed forces remain great and decisive. The armed forces of the Republic of Indonesia, the major force and the nucleus of the national defense and security force, with the people's support and together with them, should be able to overcome all kinds of outside threats. Therefore development of our national defense and security must have as its source our way of life and our historic experiences gained in the national struggle.

During the war of independence we were successful in our defense and in fighting the enemy on the basis of total people's war. We are developing this principle of total people's war with new methods, new [words indistinct] and new equipment. Thus it is clear that the question of national defense and security is a question for all the people. Therefore in long-term development we must demonstrate our readiness and sincerity to develop an appropriate national defense and security capability which can face up to and overcome major national security problems. First of all it should serve as a guarantee against uncertainties in the future and rapid change; and secondly it should be a deterrent force to be taken into account by other nations in their attempts to implant their influence, carry out undermining acts and impose their will. Thus it is clear that the objective of developing national defense and security is defense of national sovereignty, safeguard of territorial integrity, protection of our physical and mental safety and maintenance of our prestige.

Honorable assembly: The development of national defense and security is inseparable from overall national development. As a developing nation, we are aware that we do not yet have the capacity to develop an armed force equipped with the latest equipment and arms because our industrial and economic capabilities are only just beginning to develop. But this does not mean that we can neglect development of national defense and our security capability. It is true that our large territorial expanse and our strategic position demand strong armed forces. Therefore development of national defense and security must be in accordance with our national defense doctrine, the possible threats we may face and the capability of the state and the nation. Since our armed forces are fully aware of this, it is only under the second 5-year development plan that we swiftly began with physical improvement of national defense and security in line with improvements in the people's welfare and the increasing capability of the state.

In developing the national defense and security force we are improving its efficiency and increasing its size as required for execution of national strategy and the main task of safeguarding implementation of the second 5-year plan. It should be capable of supporting the struggle for the sake of our national interests in the international arena and of overcoming subversive threats from outside and from within, as well as other obstructions.

For this purpose the People's Consultative Assembly, through the broad guidelines of state policy, has assigned its mandate-holder to attain the targets for the 1974-78 defense security plan.

But in the third year of the second 5-year plan, the strength and capabilities attained during the preceding 2 years were insufficient in attaining predetermined targets because the defense and security sector--ABRI [Armed Forces of the Republic of Indonesia]--needed far greater strength and capability to cope with changes in our national security strategy in Southeast Asia in particular and the world in general.

This rapid change in our national security strategy calls for enhancement of operational capability and [words indistinct] by the end of the second 5-year plan and [words indistinct]. Steps have been taken to meet the requirements [words indistinct]. This will enable us to enhance the required minimal operational capability [words indistinct] and to [words indistinct] in the beginning of the third 5-year plan.

Honorable brother chairman: The armed forces and the state police are now developing suitable operational capabilities to maintain minimal security required to safeguard national development and maintain security and order. Nevertheless rapid changes in the strategic environment have led us to [words indistinct] of the targets of the national defense and security in the field of [words indistinct]. Therefore with the increase of state capability, we should also pay attention to national defense and security problems and to demonstrating our sincerity in building a national defense and security strength which can face and overcome any future national defense and security problems.

We must do this because it is a duty, responsibility and honor for us as a sovereign nation to defend our territorial integrity and security with our own strength, not entrusting this to other forces in the world. We therefore can overcome essential problems regarding security and order, for example, the control of foreigners, forged currency, abuse of firearms, explosives and narcotics, and criminal activities in various regions; the safeguarding of the general elections, the present People's Consultative Assembly general session and development activities.

In this connection we also continue with settlement of problems related to the G-30-S/PKI [30 September Movement/Indonesian Communist Party]. There are three considerations for settlement of this problem: 1. The safeguarding of the security of the nation and the state founded on Pancasila and the 1945 Constitution; 2. Humanitarian considerations and 3. Settlement according to law. In this connection so far, of the 894 cases submitted to state courts and military tribunals, 24 people had been cleared of all charges. This once again shows there is truly law and justice in this country. Although the government holds the view that the PKI continues to pose a latent and permanent threat, nevertheless the government respects the authority of the free judiciary which should not be influenced by the government.

The settlement of PKI detainees, a national burden, is being carried out in line with the improvements of the defense and security situation. The "A" group detainees will be settled in 1978 at the latest. Of the "B" group detainees, 1,309 were returned to society in 1975; 2,500 in 1976 and 10,000 in 1977. Another 10,000 will be released in 1978 and the rest in 1979, while all "C" group detainees have long been settled.

The government expects that those already released will adjust themselves to society and development and not again abuse their freedom by carrying out activities detrimental to security. In this connection it is our duty to see that those who have returned to society discharge their duties as Indonesian citizens and good adherents to Pancasila. I invite society to accept them properly so that they can enjoy their freedom under the protection of their own society in accordance with the people's [words indistinct].

For those who have difficulty adjusting to society, refusing to rejoin society, the government will provide them with a place to live on a voluntary basis so that these former detainees can be (re)settled as soon as possible). In connection with government policy on releasing G-30-S/PKI detainees in stages, the government wishes to reemphasize that [words indistinct] does not mean that the state is free of the dangers of a possible reemergence of the PKI. For this reason we should continue to heighten our vigilance, because according to their doctrine, PKI cadres must continue to take advantage of any opportunity, such as political tension, economic upheavals and so forth, in the interests of illegal PKI activities.

Honorable assembly: In our efforts to consolidate national stability and national development as well, we should also pay attention to the situation around us and to the world in general. No matter how we endeavor to overcome difficulties and challenges in development, we cannot dissociate ourselves from developments and upheavals in the world.

Apart from the successes we have attained in maintaining internal security, we are also striving in the international arena--in accordance with our independent and active foreign policy--to take advantage of every opportunity to continue to advance in joint efforts to preserve world peace in general and the security of Southeast Asia in particular.

In our efforts to help consolidate peace and development--the focal points of our foreign policy--we have participated, and are still participating, in the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in the Middle East. It is truly a matter of pride that the commander of the UN forces in the Middle East is a member of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Indonesia. This is a great honor for our armed forces. This also manifests the world's great confidence in the Indonesian people, and shows the correctness of the independent and active foreign policy we have followed.

We also maintain close cooperation in the security sector with our neighboring countries--Malaysia, the Philippines and Papua New Guinea--within the framework of safeguarding border areas. Apart from this, we have also conducted joint exercises. These have improved the skills and experience of the armed forces and demonstrated our determination to preserve security and stability in the Southeast Asian region through our own capabilities.

We are also continuing our profound exchange of views and experiences with neighboring countries to seek common principles in developing our respective national resilience with a view to developing regional resilience.

I would be remiss in discussing the question of defense and security without making reference to ABRI as a defense and security force as well as a social force. This is the question of ABRI's dual function. Under its dual function, besides performing its role as a defense and security organization, ABRI--as a social force--joins other social forces in deciding the course of the state and nation through democratic institutions--people's councils. This is not militarism--nor an inclination toward militarism--because as a social force ABRI has never imposed its will by using weapons given them by the people. ABRI always follows the brotherly approach and relies on reason and consultation in order to reach consensus. In this way ABRI makes efforts to play its role as a dynamic force to create stability and unity for the nation and the state.

MALAYSIA

NATIONAL FRONT, BERJASA WIN 'LANDSLIDE' IN KELANTAN

BK120949Y Kuala Lumpur International Service in English 0830 GMT 12 Mar 78 BK

[Text] The National Front and Berjasa have won a landslide victory in the east coast state of Kelantan state elections. The National Front took 23 seats and Berjasa 11. The Pan-Malaysian Islamic Party (PAS), which has controlled the state since 1959, only captured two constituencies in the 36-member assembly with very thin majorities. The two PAS seats were attained after the National Front and Berjasa had captured 23 seats in a row.

Datuk Haji Mohamed bin Yaacob, a former cabinet minister, who will be the new chief minister of Kelantan, won a four-cornered contest in Lana constituency. The president of Berjasa, Datuk Haji Mohamed bin Nasir, retained his seat in Tendong.

Among the PAS leaders who lost were former Deputy Chief Minister Haji Wan Ismail and state Liaison Secretary Haji Salaudin Abdullah.

National, State Leaders Hail Outcome

BK121336Y Kuala Lumpur Domestic Service in English 1130 GMT 12 Mar 78 BK

[Text] Datuk Hussein bin Onn said the Barisan Nasional [National Front] and Berjasa will form a clean, sincere and efficient coalition government in Kelantan. It will serve the people of the state with dedication and understanding. The prime minister is confident that there will be closer cooperation and understanding between the federal government and the new administration to be formed in Kelantan. Both development projects which had been drawn up for the state will be implemented fully.

He was commenting on the state elections in which the Barisan Nasional won 23 of the 36 seats it contested. Berjasa secured 11 while the PAS managed to get only 2. He said the resultant victory proved that the people of Kelantan did not want to be left behind in development efforts.

Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Sri Dr Mahathir bin Mohamed said the victory augurs well for the future of Kelantan. There would be no political wrangling to hamper development in the state.

Minister of Finance Tengku Tan Sri Razaleigh bin Tengku Hamzah said he will consult Datuk Hussein bin Onn tomorrow on the best way to form a strong government in Kelantan. He is chairman of the state Barisan Nasional. He said the state government should be formed next week.

President of the MCA Datuk Sri Lee San Choon said the results were not surprising. The people of Kelantan want a change after years of stagnation. The MCA in Kelantan welcomed the announcement that Datuk Haji Mohamed bin Yaacob, the former minister in the federal cabinet, would be chosen to be the new menteri besar [chief minister] of Kelantan.

Minister of Law and Attorney General Datuk Hamzah bin Abu Samah said the lesson to be drawn from the Kelantan elections was that promises must be fulfilled. The people realized that the Barisan Nasional and Berjasa would deliver the goods.

Chief Minister of Penang Dr Lim Chong Eu described the victory as proof of the people's confidence in the federal government. He also said that the people of Kelantan have full trust in Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah as head of the state Barisan Nasional.

Chief Minister of Sarawak Datuk Patinggi Haji Abdul Rahman Yakub said the victory was a testimony to Datuk Hussein's fine and able leadership. Several other political leaders also expressed optimism that under the new government Kelantan would now be able to progress in various fields.

BRIEFS

OIL, GAS DEPOSITS--Kuala Lumpur, 6 Mar--Esso Production Malaysia has found further deposits of oil and gas in its contract area off the east coast state of Trengganu, according to a statement jointly released today by Petronas and Esso. The statement said that Esso has "encountered encouraging quantities of oil and gas during the drilling of the Tiong No. 1 exploratory well". The well was completed on 22 February by the drillship Woeco VII and is the third successful exploration well that has been drilled by Esso in its peninsular Malaysia contract area since the agreement was signed with Petronas in 1976. Production tests were performed on the Tiong well which is located about 150 miles east of Kuala Trengganu, at five different depths in the well to determine the presence of oil and gas in the Tiong prospect. Two of the tests produced significant volumes of oil while the remaining three tests confirmed the existence of gas and other petroleum liquids. Further drilling is necessary to fully evaluate the commercial potential of the Tiong field, the statement added. [Excerpt] [Hong Kong AFP in English 1251 GMT 6 Mar 78 BK]

SINGAPORE

USSR'S FIRYUBIN HOLDS TALKS WITH LEE, CONCLUDES VISIT

BK101709Y Hong Kong AFP in English 1432 GMT 10 Mar 78 BK

[Text] Singapore, 10 Mar (AFP)--Deputy Soviet Foreign Minister Nikolay Firiyubin had talks here today with Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew. They met for just over an hour. A spokesman for the prime minister said he was not aware of the details of the talks. But it was understood that Mr Firiyubin, who came here on Wednesday for a four-day private visit, and Mr Lee had a general discussion on a wide range of issues of mutual interest. The possibility of increasing bilateral cooperation was also touched upon. Earlier today, Mr Firiyubin visited the Jurong industrial complex and was briefed on its strategy and development. Mr Firiyubin in turn, suggested that Singapore should send a team to study advanced Soviet building technology. Tonight the Soviet visitor was the guest of honour at a dinner hosted by Foreign Minister S. Rajaratnam, with whom he had talks yesterday.

Departs for Bangkok

BK111500Y Singapore Domestic Service in English 1130 GMT 11 Mar 78 BK

[Text] Soviet Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs N.P. Firiyubin left for Bangkok this afternoon after a 4-day visit to Singapore. He was seen off by Minister of State for National Development Dr Tan Eng Liang. Before leaving, he told newsmen at the airport that he discussed with Mr Lee Kuan Yew and Foreign Minister Sinnathamby Rajaratnam questions of mutual interest.

BRIEFS

TRADE WITH ITALY--Two-way trade between Italy and Singapore in 1977 reached more than 486 million dollars, showing an increase of more than 71 million dollars over the previous year, Italian Ambassador (Otieri) told newsmen on 6 March. The ambassador also said that some 40 Italian firms will take part in the forthcoming building and construction industry exhibition, which begins on 15 March, in Singapore. [Singapore Domestic Service in English 1130 GMT 6 Mar BK]

LI HSIEN-NIEN, HUANG HUA ARRIVE FOR 5-DAY VISIT 12 MARCH

OW120758Y Hong Kong AFP in English 0754 GMT 12 Mar 78 OW

[Text] Manila, 12 Mar (AFP)--Chinese Vice-Premier Li Hsien-nien arrived in Manila at 3 (0700 GMT) today for a five-day state visit to the Philippines.

Stepping out of the jetliner that brought him here from China, Mr. Li waved his right hand and then clapped his hands as he walked down the ramp, before vigorously shaking hands with President and Mrs Ferdinand Marcos who came out to welcome him and his party at the Manila International Airport.

The vice-premier's party included his wife, Foreign Minister and Mrs Huang Hua and other Chinese Foreign Ministry officials.

As the plane bearing the Chinese party touched down, hundreds of gaily decorated school children massed under a brilliant summer sun broke into a festive flower dance. After the two countries' national anthems were played, Mr Li, flanked by Mr Marcos, reviewed the military honor guard representing the Philippines' major armed services, the army, air force, constabulary (national police) and the navy.

Li, Marcos Address Banquet

OW121544Y Hong Kong AFP in English 1526 GMT 12 Mar 78 OW

[Text] Manila 12 Mar (AFP)--Vice-Premier Li Hsien-nien declared here tonight the determination of the Chinese people to transform China into "a powerful modern socialist country by the end of this century."

Speaking at a state dinner given in his honor by Philippine President and Mrs Ferdinand Marcos, the visiting 77-year-old Chinese leader at the same time pledged China's support of the goal of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) to turn Southeast Asia into a neutral zone.

China also supports the just struggle of Southeast Asian countries to safeguard their independence, combat super-power interference, and their efforts to protect their natural resources and economic interests, the vice-premier said. Mr Li described the recent international situation as excellent, and the situation in Southeast Asia as "heartening." He said the policies of "aggression" pursued by the superpowers had met with setbacks and they had made "the going tough."

"Twists and turns or reversals may lie ahead but the international situation will continue to develop in a direction favorable to the peoples of the world and unfavorable to the superpowers," Mr Li added. He said the efforts of ASEAN to strengthen their unity and economic cooperation served to block "hegemonist expansion."

Saying "the socialist revolution in China has entered a new period of development," Mr Li declared the Chinese people were determined to [rally round] the party Central Committee headed by Premier Hua Kuo-feng, continue the domestic and external policies of the late Chairman Mao Tse-tung, "and strive hard to make China a powerful modern socialist country by the end of this century."

The dinner, attended for the first time ever by representatives of the "barangals" (civic assemblies organized at the grass-roots level by the government) was described by President Marcos in his remarks as "the biggest state banquet ever" accorded by a Philippine official to any dignitary.

Mr Marcos said that with the "indomitable spirit" of the Chinese people, he had no doubt they would succeed in their "new historic long march" to attain economic modernization and national unity. He said China's greatest contribution to world peace was "her sincere and deep concern" for the welfare of the small developing countries like the Philippines.

Mr Marcos drew applause when he said it was sometimes difficult to decipher the policies of the great powers but that with China "it is clear she is on the side of the small developing countries of the world."

The dinner was held at the seaside Philippine International Convention Center (PICC), instead of at the Malacanang presidential palace where state dinners for visiting foreign statesmen had been held in the past.

Romulo Welcomes Li's ASEAN Support

OW 131050Y Hong Kong AFP in English 1038 GMT 13 Mar 78 OW

[Text] Manila, 13 Mar (AFP)--Philippine Foreign Secretary Carlos P. Romulo said today the stability of People's China was an important factor for continued peace in Asia. Mr Romulo made the statement while delivering a toast at a dinner at the seaside Philippine Plaza Hotel here in honor of Chinese Vice-Premier Li Hsien-nien who arrived Sunday for a five-day visit to the Philippines.

Mr Romulo said the relations between China and the Philippines, two countries with different ideologies, "prove the validity of the principles of co-existence as a basis for cooperation and for strengthening the fabric of peace among nations," according to the text of his remarks released in advance by the Foreign Office.

"The continued growth and stability of China is an important factor in the preservation of peace in Asia," Mr Romulo added. Mr Romulo said he was particularly gratified by Mr Li's expression of support for the objectives of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). He was referring to Mr Li's remarks at a state dinner given for him by President Ferdinand Marcos last night, when the vice-premier pledged China's support for the ASEAN objective of establishing a neutral zone in the region.

Saying ASEAN is an organization whose aim is to enhance regional peace and stability, Mr Romulo added: "Coming as it does at this time, when ASEAN is gaining increased vitality, the assurances of our distinguished guest are specially welcome. I am sure that these sentiments are shared by our colleagues in ASEAN."

Mr Romulo noted that Mr Li was visiting the Philippines after the Fifth National People's Congress of China, and said: "We are assured of China's continuing participation in the search for solutions leading to international peace, to peace in Asia, to increased support for the economic goals of developing countries."

AQUINO COMMENTS ON U.S. BASES, ASEAN, DOMESTIC ISSUES

OW111722Y Paris AFP in English 1612 GMT 11 Mar 78 OW

[Text] Manila, 11 Mar (AFP)--Philippine opposition leader Benigno Aquino today said U.S. bases in this country were a security safeguard for the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and Philippine-Japan trade ties.

Mr Aquino said he opposed dismantling the bases since this would deprive the United States of the means to protect the Philippines and discharge its global obligations in this part of the world.

Speaking at his first press conference after 5-1/2 years of detention at suburban Fort Bonifacio, Mr Aquino said any Philippine move to dismantle the bases would necessitate close consultation with the ASEAN member countries and Japan. Aquino reminded his questioners that Japan remains the major trading partner of this country.

The 44-year-old opposition chief, in a one-hour, freewheeling interview, emphasized that he agreed with President Ferdinand Marcos' foreign policy. His quarrel with him was only on domestic issues, Mr Aquino said.

The other factors underscored by Mr Aquino were:

"Special appeal to President Marcos to grant amnesty to all political detainees, end all trials by military tribunals, issue a special decree on freedom of information, immediately appoint an ombudsman to look into graft cases and amend the 1978 electoral code. His acceptance of a presidential pardon or amnesty if this did not involve any plea of guilt on his part.

Mr Aquino, who heads the Lakasang Bayan (People's Power) opposition slate in Manila for the 7 April elections, attacked [words indistinct] Westinghouse and the National Grains Authority (NGA). He sought a full investigation into the government award of construction of the 1.1 billion U.S. dollar nuclear power plant in nearby Bataan Province to Westinghouse, claiming it was full of irregularities.

The opposition chief also asked President Marcos to review the government's 10-peso (about 1.3 dollars) minimum wage policy, saying a worker today would need 21 Philippine pesos (about 3 U.S. dollars) in order to survive at current prices.

Asked if he expected to be president or premier of the Philippines some day, Mr Aquino broadly smiled and said it would be presumptuous of him to comment since he had "already been convicted to die by firing squad" and was fighting for his life. President Marcos ordered a retrial of his case and a long-pending habeas corpus proceeding is still being deliberated on by the Philippine Supreme Court.

INGLES: WESTERN PRESS TRYING TO EMBARRASS PHILIPPINES

OW110549Y Hong Kong AFP in English 0533 GMT 11 Mar 78 OW

[Text] Manila, 11 Mar (AFP)--Foreign Undersecretary Jose D. Ingles has accused certain sectors of the western press of distorting news by reporting that Philippine troops had recently occupied Panata Island in the disputed Spratlys.

In a statement issued last night and published under frontpage banner headlines in the Manila press, Mr Ingles claimed there was an "insidious attempt" to embarrass the Philippine Government on the eve of the visit here of Chinese Vice Premier Li Hsien-nien. Mr Li is to arrive in Manila tomorrow for a 5-day visit.

Mr Ingles was commenting on a report from Manila quoting Defense Undersecretary Carmelo Z. Barbero as admitting Philippine troops occupied Panata last 2 March to strengthen the country's position. Panata lies in the Spratly cluster of islands in the South China Sea, an area also claimed by people's China, Vietnam and Taiwan.

Mr Ingles summoned Chinese Ambassador Ko Hua to the Foreign Office and asked him to inform the Chinese Government that the reports were "distorted" allegedly to place the Philippines "in a bad light in the eyes of the Chinese Government," the statement said. The fact was that Panata Island had been occupied by the Philippines for "several years," Mr. Ingles explained. Ambassador Ko on his part said he would convey the Philippine feelings to his government and expressed hope Mr Li's visit would be a success, according to the statement.

In a separate statement, Armed Forces Chief Gen. Romeo C. Espino said that "our forces have been in actual occupation of Panata and the other islands for many, many years now." Gen Espino pointed out that in the "in the natural exercise of our sovereignty, there are not only troops in these islands but also civilians who fish in the surrounding waters and till the land there."

Unlike the civilian community there, the troops are "rotated periodically," and the last rotation in Panata "was carried out only very recently," Gen Espino added.

KING, QUEEN OF MALAYSIA MAKE BRIEF STOPOVER IN MANILA

OW121457Y Manila Domestic Service in English 1300 GMT 11 Mar 78 OW

[Summary] The king and queen of Malaysia are in Manila for a 24-hour visit. The Malaysian royal couple will stay as house guests of President Marcos at Malacanang during their brief stay. The king and the queen arrived in Manila aboard the luxury liner Queen Elizabeth II.

KIDNAPPED FRENCH OFFICIAL FREED WITHOUT RANSOM PAYMENT

OW121702Y Hong Kong AFP in English 1633 GMT 12 Mar 78 OW

[Excerpts] Zamboanga City, 12 Mar (AFP)--Haggard, unshaved and his shoes torn, French official Pierre Huguet was freed without ransom today from 15 days' captivity by Moslem guerrillas in a small southern Philippine island near here. The release of the 59-year-old hostage took place at 4:45 (0845 GMT) in a seaside rendezvous in Basilan Island, while hundreds of heavily armed rebels, perched in trees or posted in nearby hills, their rifles at the ready, watched the turnover ceremony. Immediately, Mr Huguet was flown out of the island by a waiting army helicopter to the southern military command (Southcom) hospital in this seaside city for medical treatment and observation. Southern Commander Rear Admiral Romulo Espaldon told newsmen Mr Huguet was recovered without payment of a single centavo of ransom and that he looked "hale and healthy" except for a swollen left elbow reportedly caused by a burn.

What appeared to have brought the kidnappers' to heel was the seizure by the military of about nine of their relatives, reportedly including two fathers, who were used in a swap for the life of the Frenchman. Although Adm Espaldon denied any ransom payment, military sources said the "deal" with the kidnappers also involved reimbursing them for "expenses" the guerrillas had incurred in keeping Mr Huguet captive for two weeks in their mosquito-infested mountain hideout. The amount of the "reimbursement" was not disclosed but the sources said it was "token".

At the Southcom hospital tonight, an army major serving as Mr Huguet's physician told AFP the patient was well and "up and about", although suffering from a limp probably because of exhaustion. Mr Huguet also had some lost weight and was suffering from a slight infection, the doctor added. Earlier, on arrival at the Zamboanga military airfield, Mr Huguet was carried off in a stretcher and whisked to the hospital in an ambulance.

The turnover of Mr Huguet was made in the Selmut coastal village of Basilan to the three-sided joint Ceasefire Commission supervising the year-old truce agreement between the government and the MNLF. The recovery team was led by Islamic Conference Chief ceasefire observer Lt Col Lamine Cisse, Philippine military representative Col Abraham Mammel, and MNLF representative Hatimil Hassan. The arrival of the Col Cisse from Jiddah last week appeared to have sped up the release negotiations being conducted by the military through the kidnappers' relatives acting as emissaries.

A marine escort who accompanied the ceasefire [words indistinct] seeing "hundreds, probably a thousand rebels" at the rendezvous point, perched on coconut trees, posted on the ground or watching from surrounding hills, their armalite [word as received] rifles "ready to fire." Walking towards the seashore, the ceasefire team saw nine motorized boats coming ashore, each loaded with about 10 armed men, one carrying the hostage. "He (Mr Huguet) looked badly weakened and appeared stunned when he saw us," the marine told AFP. "His white shirt was dirty, his swollen arm was bandaged and his shoes were so battered I wasn't sure whether they were shoes or slippers." The marine said he had to hold up Mr Huguet so that he could walk up to the helicopter. After the turnover was made, there was hand-shaking all around, the marine added. "One of the rebels looked at us curiously," he added, "as though we were celebrities. Some came over to touch my uniform, my gun, my belt, and asked me to exchange weapons with them."

Adm Espaldon himself flew to Basilan in a separate chopper, but waited it out in a camp eight km (4.5 miles) from the turnover point. The admiral identified the kidnappers as an MNLF band led by Commander Usman Bairulah, who had been responsible for several kidnaps in the past, and said "persuasion" was used in securing Mr Huguet's release. "I am happy we solved the kidnapping without bloodshed and without paying anything," the Southcom chief added.

Replying to questions, Adm Espaldon said he earlier received a report that Mr Huguet was "spitting blood" while in captivity, but that he looked quite healthy to him. But Mr Huguet had lost his two cameras, the admiral added.

MNLF Spokesman Denies Responsibility

OW130433Y Hong Kong AFP in English 0416 GMT 13 Mar 78 OW

[Excerpts] Manila, 13 Mar (AFP)--A spokesman for the rebel Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) today disclaimed MNLF responsibility for the kidnapping in the southern Philippines of French official Pierre Huguet. MNLF representative Hatimil Hassan told AFP the kidnappers, a Moslem band believed led by a certain Commander Usman Bairullah, did not belong to the front, which spearheads the 5-1/2 year-old Moslem revolt for self-rule in the Mindanao region 800 (500 miles) south of here. Mr Hassan is a member of the joint Ceasefire Commission supervising the Mindanao ceasefire agreement forged in December 1976 in Tripoli, Libya.

Mr Hassan said he contacted the MNLF zone commander in Basilan while negotiations for Mr Huguet's release were going on and the commander told him the MNLF rebels on the island planned "to go after" the kidnappers if the hostage was not released. Lt Col Lamine Cisse, chief Islamic Conference observer of the ceasefire, who was with the ceasefire team that recovered Mr Huguet from the kidnappers, said "what we have achieved is the work of the whole Ceasefire Commission." He said all members of the commission were happy that the negotiations proved successful, and he stressed the "efforts and efficiency" exerted by southern Philippine military command Chief Rear Admiral Romulo Espaldon in facilitating Mr Huguet's liberation.

SUBSCRIPTION INFORMATION

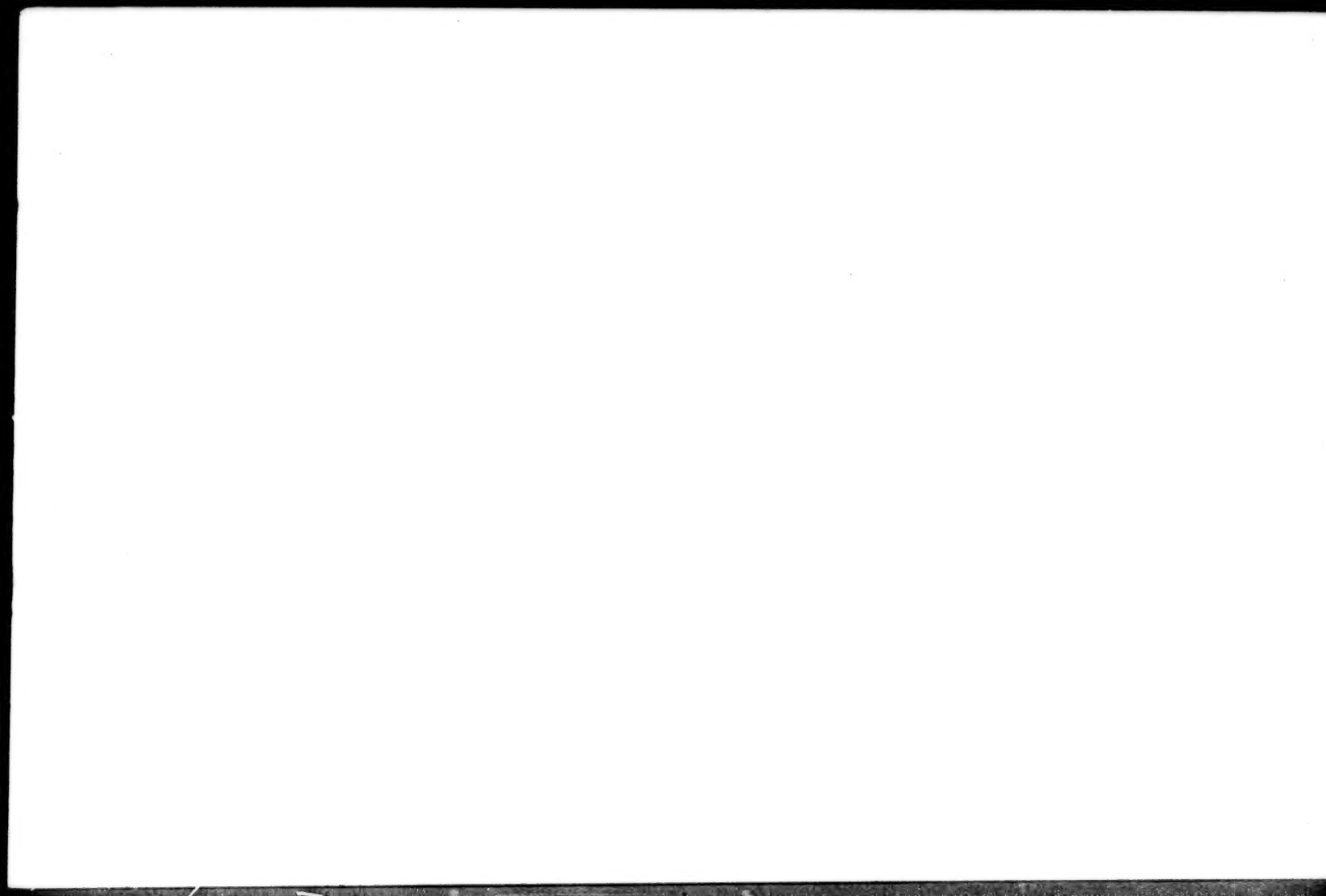
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